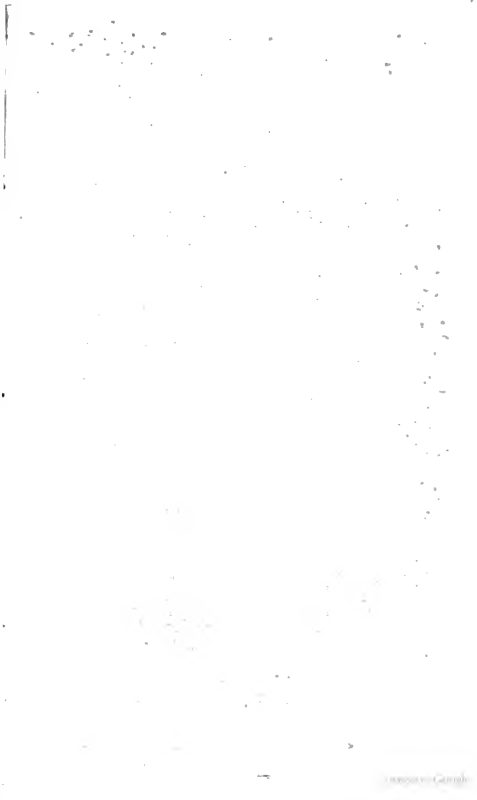


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ARMENIA

RAMBLES AT THE ANTIPODES:

A SERIES OF SKETCHES

OF

MORETON BAY, NEW ZEALAND, THE MURRAY
RIVER AND SOUTH AUSTRALIA,

AND

THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

With Two Maps;

AND

Twelve Tinted Lithographs, illustrative of Australian Life, by S.T. Gill.

LONDON:

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WILLIAM HENRY COX,
GREAT QUEEN STREET, LINCOLN'S INN FIELDS.



PREFACE.

THE following little Sketches of Tours in some parts of Australia, New Zealand, &c., were originally prepared for publication in a Melbourne newspaper. The very kind reception they met with in Australia has led to their being put into a form at once more permanent, and accessible to British readers.

It is perfectly surprising to any one travelling in England, to find how many of the persons with whom he comes in contact have some reason for taking interest in those distant colonies, which, within the last few years have sprung up into such interesting dimensions. Either some friend is there, or has been there; or there may be some lurking inclination to emigrate. Certainly the fact is very impressive, that while a great deal of ignorance prevails with regard to the countries spoken of, a considerable desire is exhibited to obtain information respecting them.

With a hope of furnishing some such information in a cursory and popular style, these few pages have been thrown together. Prepared by a colonist, for the

amusement or information of colonists, no attempt was made to adapt these Sketches to the taste of British readers ;—they are but little fit to cope with British criticism.

To others than those resident in the Colonies some apology is, perhaps, due for the extreme tone adopted with reference to the treatment of the aboriginal populations. The remarks were specially designed to attract attention to the wrongs of the native races, and to stimulate legislation in their behalf. And, whilst acknowledging that some of the expressions used are very strong, if addressed to English people generally, it must be confessed by all who have had opportunities of personal observation, that, in her treatment of the inferior races subjected to her sway, Britain has little indeed to boast of.

The illustrations characteristic of Australian life, are the work of Mr. S. T. Gill, some time resident in Australia ; and no one acquainted with the colonies, will hesitate to bear testimony to the singular vigour and fidelity here, as ever, associated with his pencil.

A TRIP TO MORETON BAY.

ALTHOUGH in the regular receipt of the newspapers published in this district, you are, I have no doubt, in possession of views as little accurate of the general character of this portion of the Australian continent, as I was, when, for the first time in my life, I landed here a few weeks since. And as I conceive it to be of importance to the general welfare of these colonies, in the interesting race now opening to them all, that an active intercommunication should exist between them, and that they should be as well known to one another as circumstances will admit of, I will endeavour to aid that object by jotting down a few particulars of the subjects most calculated to strike an inquirer as containing matter of interest.

The district of Moreton Bay resembles that of Victoria in many respects in the manner in which you approach it from the sea. You first enter a bay of very considerable extent, and sailing up this vast sheet of water for twenty or thirty miles you reach the mouth of the river Brisbane; as in your colony the Yarra is reached above Williamstown. A bar of three quarters of a mile in breadth, and consisting of sand and shell, is a sad stumbling-block to the navigation of

the river, and ships drawing eight or nine feet can only pass at the top of high water, vessels of greater draught anchoring outside this bar altogether. This obstacle surmounted, you enter the river, passing for the first few miles through thick groves of mangroves, reminding one of the scenes depicted in "Tom Cringles Log," and the "Cruise of the Midge," occasional clearings relieving the monotony of the somewhat sombre foliage of this lover of the salt seasand, and thick jungles of most luxuriant natural vegetation presenting themselves at intervals. Gradually small farms and homesteads open upon each bank, and about twenty miles above the bar the town of Brisbane makes its appearance on either side.

The river still retains truly majestic proportions, being at Brisbane three or four hundred feet wide. It is salt at high water, tolerably fresh at ebb tide and during floods, but not so fresh as to be used for domestic purposes by the inhabitants. With fresh water Brisbane is badly supplied, by the usual clumsy water cart arrangement, from a small rivulet which runs into the Brisbane just at the town.

The object which most strikes the stranger as he sails up the river is the beautiful banana, which rears its tall stem and luxuriant wealth of leaves round every house, even to the humblest cottage, and imparts a completely tropical appearance to the whole landscape. It grows ten, twelve, or fifteen feet high, and, except when unduly battered by the winds, or browned by the frost, it is a very elegant and attractive appendage to the homestead.

With reference to the semi-tropical character of the vegetation generally, I may remind you that Brisbane is as nearly as possible ten degrees nearer the equator than Melbourne, the one being about 28° and the other 38° . This of course adds greatly to the luxuriance of vegetable growth; but another circumstance, for which I was not at all prepared, must be borne in mind as exercising a great influence upon climate, and through climate upon general production, general health, and the future prospects of the district. The principal rains fall during the summer months. Opposed to the rule with you—the hot months are the wet months—the winter is almost uniformly dry. This has not been the case this year, during which the season has been unprecedentedly wet. But I confess that the knowledge of this fact at once greatly modified all my conceptions of Moreton Bay. Judging by our summer heats in Melbourne, and allowing for the difference of latitude, I never could look upon Moreton Bay as a country likely to be otherwise than distressingly arid and liable to be constantly burnt up. When I found, however, the effects of the hot sun of its summer were usually tempered by copious rains, and, moreover, that it was almost entirely free from our hot winds, a new light dawned upon me, and the possibility of a great future forced itself at once upon the mind. What more could be wished for than plenty of moisture combined with plenty of heat, a rich soil, and the amplest possible scope?

The town of Brisbane contains about four or five thousand inhabitants. It is in a very unimproved

condition, no local authority existing for organizing efforts at improvement. In fact, throughout the whole of New South Wales, nothing is more striking than the absence of the municipal element in the administration of local affairs. Thus everything is left to "Government," that Government simply "circumlocution office," more or less modified by distance from headquarters. The unimproved condition of the country generally is perfectly distressing, and the primitive condition of the towns, in particular, would carry desolation to the heart of your municipal celebrities.

The second town of Moreton Bay is Ipswich, and between it and Brisbane the invariable Little Pedlington feud rages implacably. Ipswich is situated on the Bremer, which unites with the Brisbane a few miles below that town. It is distant from Brisbane about twenty-five miles by land, and about fifty by the river. Communication is kept up by steamers daily, which occupies four or five hours in the trip. The Bremer is fresh, although the tide rises nearly as far as Ipswich. This is the head of the navigation; upon which consideration the claims of Ipswich to supremacy are founded. Immediately above the town the river dwindles to an insignificant creek: at the town, although deep, there is scarcely room in the river for a steamer of the size of your Geelong boats to swing round.

In the neighbourhood of both towns there is a great deal of very good land, Ipswich having the advantage of a limestone formation, accompanied by that fertility of soil and luxuriance of vegetation, by

which, I believe, this basis is invariably distinguished. Ipswich itself is badly situated upon a very broken site. It is one collection of deep ruts, ravines, and steep slopes, exposed to the glare from the white hills around, and in wet weather it must be liable to become insufferably dirty and unwholesome.

Moreton Bay has at present only reached its squatting stage. In this particular, it is about where Port Phillip was in 1845. Wool and fat wethers supply the topic of conversation, occasionally varied by references to the breed of cattle, and brief discussions upon the good and bad qualities of the horse.

The country, far larger than Victoria, is in the hands of about 450 squatters: the total population is about 22,000; of which, according to the usual badly adjusted proportion incident to Australian settlements, about a third are located in the towns. Agriculture and commerce languish, and the evils of subjection to a distant government are palpable everywhere.

The runs are habitually understocked. The most magnificent black soil I ever saw abounds on all sides, but is but feebly applied to the uses of man. The misapplication of great gifts in this way would cause the hair of your "Conventionists" to stand on end with horror, and their president could not pass across the district without risk of dissolution in a bath of indignant perspiration. A very active agitation is going on at present in favour of separation from New South Wales. This seems likely to be conceded before long, but there is a very strong feeling in reference to the adjustment of the boundary line.

The Moreton Bay people insist upon the thirtieth parallel of latitude, which would make over to them the Clarence River, and other districts apparently more intimately associated with the northern colony; while New South Wales, with her accustomed greediness, demands the adoption of the twenty-eighth parallel, which would bring the boundary close up to the present principal towns, and cut off large tracts of country confessedly belonging to Moreton Bay. Mr. Labouchere has, I believe, given expression to the opinion that, in the arrangement of the boundary, the opinions of the settlers on the debateable ground ought chiefly to be studied. This *looks* reasonable, but I think it is not. Very unworthy considerations may influence decision in this matter, and the wishes of a handful of residents may be diametrically opposed to obvious propriety, and to the general welfare. It seems that people should, almost in spite of themselves, be made to go for law and for government as nearly as possible to the place at which they transact their business. Your Edward River settlers send their produce to Melbourne, while, if they have a dispute with a neighbour, or have to prosecute a servant, they have to go to Sydney. They prefer this, although Sydney is twice the distance from them that Melbourne is, because New South Wales is considered to be more favourable to the squatters than Victoria. In other words, they are contented to do without law, and to submit to Government as feebly administered as a naturally defective government must always be hundreds of miles from head quarters; from small

pecuniary considerations. Your Mr. Westgarth once laid down a very good rule for the adjustment of colonial boundaries, in suggesting that the proper guide was the foot-print of the working bullock, which conveys produce to market.

I have always felt that your own boundary with New South Wales would some day require alteration, and that you should have all the country to the Murrumbidgee at least, as well perhaps as that at Twofold Bay ; and, energetically discussed on this side of New South Wales, it might perhaps be a good time to take action in the matter. An intelligent writer in one of the local journals lately showed that Victoria has but 98,000 square miles of territory, whilst New South Wales has 250,000 if she gets cut down to the thirtieth parallel, and if she gets the twenty-eighth, 105,000 square miles, or a tract more than equal to all Victoria, will be added to her share. This seems unreasonable, and I beg to direct your attention to this subject.

The government of the district is locally administered by a gentleman designated the "Government Resident," holding a position analogous to that once held by Mr. La Trobe with you. The office is filled by Captain Wickham, a nautical gentleman, long associated with the surveys of the coasts of this continent. He has been here for many years, is tolerably popular, and seems to be a well meaning, intelligent man. Of course he works in hobbles of red tape ; is kept in a condition of due subjection to the official magnates in Sydney ; and perhaps, as a man

reared in the navy, may still retain that large share of deference to authority which characterises the service, and is apt greatly to unfit a man for political position. Separation will, of course, do much to put all this to rights, and the vigorous infusion of the popular element into some of the adjacent colonies cannot but exercise a beneficial influence upon this.

The natural history of Moreton Bay possesses many features of great interest. The climate is ordinarily genial in the extreme, and highly favourable to both animal and vegetable life. I have already spoken to you of the beautifully luxuriant scrubs, with their intense vegetation, developed by great heat, abundant moisture, and a soil enriched by the vegetable débris of a thousand years. Amongst the principal trees, the noble pine figures conspicuously, growing to a great height, and catching the eye by the peculiar arrangement of its foliage. It is not so elegant as the pine of Norfolk Island, but is still a very handsome tree: its timber is largely used for building purposes, being as serviceable as the Norway or Canadian deal, with the additional advantage of being less liable to burn, on account of the deficiency of the resinous quality.

The next most interesting tree is, perhaps, the Moreton Bay fig, which, like the pine, delights in scrubs and gullies, and, under favourable circumstances, grows to a great size. Although not the true Indian rubber tree, it is a very near relation. A gardener here proved that such was the case, by

squeezing a little of its milky juice from the foot-stalk of a leaf and rubbing it gently in his hand, thereby producing a little ball of unmistakeable caoutchouc.

To my taste, however, the handsomest tree of all is the native chesnut. Clothed with a profuse foliage of a large prettily-shaped pinnated leaf, of the most brilliant green, and of the glossiest texture; this is one of the most beautiful trees I ever saw. The bends of creeks upon which it grows look like long cultivated gardens; and if it will thrive with you, as I think it will, for it grows freely in the Botanical Gardens at Sydney, your suburban gardeners cannot introduce anything more truly ornamental. It produces seed in great profusion, resembling horse-chesnuds (from which it derives its ordinary name), but formed in a large, brown pod of six or eight inches in length.

A principal ornament in the gardens here, is a very celebrated tree, indigenous, but now growing near Brisbane—the Bunya-Bunya, the most noticeable probably of all Australian trees that produce an edible fruit. It is the *Araucaria Bidwellii* of the botanist. Growing to a great size, with a small glossy leaf, armed with very sharp prickles, it produces its fruit in a cone sometimes twice the size of a human head, the cone containing many scores of the fruit, each lapped in a separate leaf. The bunya produces a principal harvest only once in three years, although in each year some of the fruit is found. I was in hopes that this was the fruiting season, but I find that February is the proper month. The blacks are so fond of it that they travel hundreds of miles to eat it, and the fruit

time of the bunya-bunya is, therefore, the great season for their corroborees, fights, and waddy-wielding love-makings. The fruit of the bunya is soaked in water and then roasted in the ashes. It greatly resembles the sweet chesnut in flavour, and is not very unlike it in size and form, although rather more pointed than the ordinary chesnut.

Under the influence of a peculiar climate, of which I will give you at another time more accurate data, by furnishing you with some meteorological observations that have been kindly supplied me, a great change comes over the garden and the paddock as compared to anything to which one is accustomed with you. In the garden and orchard the gooseberry and currant retire before the Cape gooseberry; the cherry, apple, pear, plum, and apricot, give way to the banana, pine apple, guava, and custard apple. The peach struggles to hold its own, but not with perfect success. The trees grow large and look thriving, but the fruit is not very good, and when approaching ripeness, it is constantly attacked by a little grub, which eats into the substance of the pulp, and rapidly destroys the fruit. A new peach has been introduced, called the China, which is reported to be good, and which has the additional recommendation of being very beautiful during its flowering season, the blossom being double, and of a rich rose pink, far darker than the ordinary peach. The orange has not progressed here so well as I should have expected. It is said to be very liable to blights, but I suspect that the worst obstacle to its culture exists in the

apathy of the people, painfully characteristic as that apathy is of the squatting stage of national progress. The grape grows vigorously, and brings its fruit to perfection.

The farmers complain that agriculture does not pay; and, while persisting in attempting to raise the ordinary crops of the English system, it is not very likely it ever will. Wheat does not grow well near the coast, although on the other side of the great dividing range it is spoken of more favourably. In this neighbourhood it produces but a scanty crop and a shrivelled grain. I believe maize yields a good return, and both soil and climate seem suitable for it, and all its immediate kind. A great deal of the more favourably situated land might be cropped twice a year, and with irrigation there seems scarcely any limit to the production of the rich lands more readily accessible. The pine apple and banana might be exported in enormous quantities, and, I should think, at very remunerative rates. It is a novelty to see the pine apple grown by the acre, as your market gardeners grow turnips and cabbages, but in reality the pine is here grown much more easily than either of the latter; and, planted in rows, like cabbages, they go on producing fruit from young shoots of each season, and, if the ground be kept clean, and moderately rich, they never appear to require replacing.

Some very interesting experiments have been made in the production of cotton, but hitherto in rather a dilettante style. The quality is unquestionable, but a difficulty exists in the expense of picking and cleaning.

The weight of the seed is so great in proportion to that of the cleaned cotton, that it will not answer to send it home in the seed, and the "ginning" it according to the American system is rather an expensive process here. The tree itself grows most luxuriantly, and, although cut down by the frosts, it is more inclined to assume a perennial form than in the most favoured districts of America. In spite of all drawbacks, I think it quite likely that cotton growing will one day take a very important position amongst the industrial pursuits of Australia.

Quitting the vegetable world, and glancing briefly at the animal productions of Moreton Bay, we find many things to interest us. The turtle abounds in the bay, and furnishes constant sport during the spring and summer to the blacks, who still muster in very large numbers throughout this district.

One of the most interesting spots in the neighbourhood is a little place called Cleveland, situated upon the bay, about twenty miles by land from Brisbane, and celebrated for some rather abortive attempts at the establishment of a more convenient shipping place than Brisbane itself. All this having been, for the present at least, abandoned, the capital house erected by an enterprising landowner, during the crisis of a commercial dream, has been converted into a very commodious lodging-house, for the accommodation of such strangers as are contented to visit that part of the bay with less ambitious views. As one of these I made my way to Cleveland, and laid myself out for the luxury of a few days' boating and hunting of the

turtle, and a very interesting animal, very little known, called the "Yangan," of which more anon.

The establishment of Host Cassim is unique. It is very isolated, the nearest resident being a fellmonger, upon a creek four miles off. Cassim himself is a small native of the Mauritius, as dark as one of the aborigines; his wife is an Irishwoman, and the only white personage in the establishment, with the exception of a small boy, rather wilder and dirtier than the blacks, who are their only domestics. Yet in this semi-civilised circle we passed several very pleasant days, and I confess that I left Cleveland with considerable regret. Our only companions in our daily boating excursions were two of the blacks, who are expert boatmen, and, although incorrigibly lazy, very amusing fellows in their way. Their mode of catching turtle is as follows:—they either sail or pull gently across the bays, and around the islands which the turtle frequent, and endeavour to keep in about eight or ten feet water. One native stands in the bow of the boat, stark naked, and peering down into the beautifully clear water. If he sees a turtle he darts headlong upon it, seizes it by the fin, turns it over on its back, and thereby disables it, so that with assistance he is able to lift it into the boat. We saw them darting about on all sides, popping up and down again with an activity very little corresponding with one's ordinary conceptions of turtle movement, but we were not fortunate enough to catch one. The first afternoon we were delighted to see a fine turtle floating quietly on the surface, and, with a happy combination of speed and silence, we bore down tri-

umphantly upon him; but, alas, when "Tommy" seized him by the fin, he proved to be a dead one, and so long dead as to be impracticable to even aboriginal appetite. His sable captor did not, however, part with him without a sigh and a protracted *post mortem* examination; and was rather scandalized at my joking him on his evident indisposition to part with such a dainty morsel.

But an animal more interesting even than the turtle, to all but aldermanic tastes, is that which I have already alluded to as the "Yangan." This, of course, is its native name. It is also called the sea cow or dugong. Scientifically it is the *Halecore Australis*, described, I believe, by Cuvier and other naturalists. It seems to be something between the whale, the porpoise, and the seal. It frequents the shallow waters of the bays along this part of the coast, browsing peacefully upon the marine herbage that grows upon the flats. It is usually when full grown eight or ten feet in length, it rises to the surface to breathe, is generally found in pairs, and suckles its young with great tenderness. It is caught with the harpoon, but with difficulty, as its sense of hearing is excessively keen. The value of this animal is peculiar. Its flesh is not only palatable and nutritious but actually curative in a very high degree, and is particularly good for all forms of scrofula and other diseases arising from a vitiated condition of the blood. In its fresh state it is something like tender beef, and salted it very nearly resembles bacon,—so nearly indeed that I unconsciously ate it at friend Cassim's for bacon, and was rather startled by his assurance afterwards that the morning's

rasher consisted of the flesh of the "Yangan." But the principal value of this animal consists of the oil, which is extracted from it in large quantities. An intelligent medical man, in long practice in Brisbane, has found that this oil possesses all the virtues, and more than all, of the celebrated cod liver oil of the pharmacopeia. When properly prepared the dugong oil is almost entirely free from all unpleasant odour or flavour, and the quantities which can be administered are therefore very much greater than is the case with the cod liver oil, without risk of offending the most delicate stomach. Dr. Hobbs assures me that he has used it for some years, and in great numbers of cases, and that he has every reason to be satisfied with the results. With a little management it could be obtained in large quantities, as each full grown animal will yield from eight to twelve gallons of the oil.

As I sat luxuriously lounging in the spacious verandah at Cleveland, or floating over the placid waters of the Bay, I could not help thinking that, whatever other good qualities this neighbourhood might hereafter prove itself to be possessed of, at all events it should be confessed the true refuge of the consumptive. With a climate, which, even in the depth of winter was not only the most bland and genial I ever witnessed, but absolutely challenged imagination to suggest improvement; and with a valuable and peculiar nutriment, such as I have described, floating past the very doors, where could the afflicted turn with a readier hope of relief? I would commend this consideration to those who watch over the health of your community; for well I know that you have no immunity from that

fatal disease, which hangs upon the skirts of the great Anglo-Saxon army, wherever it strides along in its energetic march. I see instances of the importance of this suggestion everywhere around me. There are now living, and going about their daily avocations here, persons who, ten years since, were pronounced incurable with you ; while a quiet grave here and there in this very cemetery tells a sad tale of premature loss, which would have been prevented had the steps of the destroyer been earlier arrested. I will not mention names, either of the living or the dead, but there are many among your readers who know how truly I have spoken in each case ; and if your medical men would always remember that such a place as this is easily accessible, and would exercise that emphasis in their directions to their patients or their friends which I am inclined to think they sometimes omit, we might find that we had fewer vacant places in our families, and fewer tears to shed for the untimely dead.

In a former letter I told you that I would furnish you with some meteorological data which had been collected in this neighbourhood. By a study of these, a better conception of the climate of Moreton Bay will be formed than could be acquired by any amount of mere description. The annexed table is taken from observations made during several years by Captain Wickham, the Government resident. The observations have been discontinued of late years, but they are sufficiently extended to give a good idea of the ordinary nature of Moreton Bay weather.

Lot 100 E 1

SCRUBBERS MAKING FOR CAMPING GROUND.

Peter & Wapiti

S.T.C.



FALL OF RAIN,									
	1840.	1841.	1842.	1848.	1844.		1845.		1846.
	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Inches.	Rain, Inches.	Mean Temperature, 9 a.m.	Rain, Inches.	Mean Temperature.	Rain, Inches.
January	3.675	19.911*	1.500	4.350	10.947	..	2.474	77.5 77.3 75.	2.018
February ..	3.762	3.344	8.550	8.650	9.125	..	4.236	76.7 75.1 79.	1.609
March.....	1.730	5.064	7.450	2.500	1.923	..	2.790	75.1 74.8 74.7	1.036
April	1.815	0.920	2.340	5.000	3.169	..	4.517	70.1 68.8 66.3	0.150
May	2.031	5.279	0.340	5.500	7.003	..	2.435	64.6 61.4 60.8	0.000
June	0.259	1.125	0.250	4.794	1.696	57.5 51.5	0.433	55.2 54. 54.3	0.425
July.....	0.318	0.000	5.200	6.221	2.736	52.8 53.6 53.9	1.242	55.7 60.1 54.4	1.481
August	0.299	0.200	0.200	2.926	6.643	57.2 60. 60.5	1.644	55.5 61. —	2.443
September ..	8.004	2.212	2.000	2.269	3.985	61.8 63.2 66.7	1.020	61.5 64. 66.8	8.702
October	2.455	0.779	0.250	1.681	5.007	65.9 70.5 69.2	1.523	70.1 66.8 75.1	2.772
November ..	4.799	4.861	0.000	1.399	5.804	74.6 73.4 75.0	2.884	76.4 76.4 81.5	10.426
December ..	4.971	5.714	5.730	5.841	4.573	71.2 74.9 75.8	13.914	80.5 72.8 80.7	5.863

* This enormous fall of rain caused a flood of a very disastrous nature.

The average temperature in this table is the register of the thermometer at 9 a. m. in the shade, which is taken to be a near approximation to the mean temperature of each day; the months are divided into three periods of ten days each, the mean of each period being given in the abstract. You will perceive, as I have already remarked, that all their principal rains fall during the summer months, the average rain-fall of June, July, and August (the chief wet months with you), being very low indeed, and contrasting strongly with the heavy rains usually falling in November, December, January, and February. You will probably be surprised at the comparatively low temperature exhibited in the table, as compared with what one might expect from occasional Melbourne or Sydney heats, and with a reduced latitude of several degrees. During two years and a half the thermometer only appears to have registered 81·6 upon one occasion, and has very rarely exceeded 80°. But I would remind you that the mode of calculating the mean heat for a period of ten days has of course an equalising tendency, as the high heats registered one day will be set against the much more moderate degrees of temperature of days before and after. As a certain set off against this consideration, I must record my impression, however, as opposed to that of Captain Wickham, that the temperature at nine in the morning is the nearest approximation to the mean temperature of the day. The mornings appear to me to be disproportionately warm in comparison with the rest of the day. They are generally very calm, and the sun

strikes strongly, while about ten or eleven o'clock a refreshing sea breeze usually sets in, and the day becomes perceptibly cooler. Perhaps this may be a matter simply of sensation, and not affecting thermometric temperature. But the fact is worth recording.

Meteorologists who pay any attention to the above table should remember that it is compiled for the locality of Brisbane, situated a short distance from the sea; and that conclusions based upon it would be very fallacious as applied to other parts of the country, particularly to the very large extent of occupied land on the other side of the great dividing range. At a comparatively trifling distance from Brisbane the climate changes remarkably, the nights are often extremely cold, the cultivation of the banana and the pine apple becomes very precarious if not hopeless, and a perceptible alteration comes over the indigenous vegetation. I have not felt so cold for years as I did early one morning near Ipswich, and I must confess that I am puzzled to account for the very low range of temperature frequently perceptible, as compared with the latitude.

This extraordinary cold cannot be accounted for by altitude, because it is often felt near Ipswich, past which the river runs with a scarcely perceptible current, and unchecked by a single fall in its course to the sea. The most satisfactory explanation I have heard refers the low temperature to intense evaporation, and I think that this may account for it. The proverbially dry atmosphere of Australia passes over a surface usually tolerably supplied with moisture, and

the consequent evaporation goes on with an activity productive of its natural results,—a remarkable degree of cold. I have endeavoured to test the correctness of this theory by inquiring as to the effect upon temperature of peculiar seasons, and the result is strongly confirmatory of its truth. The present winter has been unprecedentedly wet, so wet as to lead to floods, and greatly to interfere with traffic, and it has also been more than usually mild, frost having been almost entirely unknown in the neighbourhood of Brisbane. Thus, the prevailing winds, already charged with moisture, are incapable of attracting more; evaporation is diminished in intensity, and mild weather is the consequence. You will perceive the importance of such inquiries in reference to considerations of human health, the cultivation of the land, and the management of live stock, in a country at present little known beyond its immediate bounds. Glanced at superficially, Moreton Bay would strike us as likely to be little better than an arid waste, capable probably of feeding a few sheep and cattle in ordinary seasons, of occasionally distinguishing itself by the production of some semi-tropical crops, raised almost by accident, and only by a peculiarly favourable combination of circumstances leading to a sort of spasmodic success. I think that I have shewn you by unchallengeable meteorological data that it is probably fit for something very much better, and that it may fairly hope for a future which will in no way disgrace it amongst the Australian sisterhood.

For persons in failing health, particularly from dis-

eases of the chest, I think it quite likely that Brisbane or Cleveland (or Sandgate, a new watering-place on another part of the bay) will become the Montpellier of the Australian colonies. I could scarcely desire a more luxurious abode, as far as climate is concerned, for those who, in your more progressive regions, are fighting too eagerly the battle of life. I think your exciting times and exciting scenes will be found to use up men with great rapidity, and it is well, while there is time, to look round for a place of refuge which is easily accessible, and to which the toilworn can retire and there seek the blessings of an unknown repose. Men live fast in Victoria, and, if they be not on their guard, they will find that they will also die fast. The fatal "dissipation" of the over-worked mind which hurried away Hugh Miller in so impressive a manner will claim its victims amongst your ardent strugglers for wealth, for power, and fame. The Anglo-Saxon always works too hard, and whether his labour take the shape of the brain-sweat of your public men, or the simple brow-sweat of Brown the stonemason, a day of retribution inevitably awaits the tamperer with the laws of nature, who presumes unduly upon the indomitable energies of a very game and enduring race.

The climate of Moreton Bay is as favourable to vegetable, and other forms of animal, life as it seems to be to man. With considerable heat and much moisture the luxuriance of its vegetation in summer must be something tremendous. And the grasses springing freely and furnishing an ample bite during the warm days in which stock are more inclined to lounge about

and chew the cud than to wander restlessly over the runs, the fattening process must go on during the summer months with vast rapidity. Much to my surprise, I find that the principal cause of suffering and loss with live stock is to be found rather in the cold and misery of an occasionally rough winter, than in any serious inconvenience from the summer heats. Droughts sometimes occur, and carry desolation to runs which have been stocked up to their capacity during ordinary seasons; and in some districts there appears to be a general complaint of an insufficiency of rain. But that this does not characterise the district throughout, the authentic particulars already furnished will completely prove.

Although, with little other resource for their fat stock than boiling down, the settlers are rich and prosperous. Much to their credit, as compared with the squatters with you, the scab is, I believe, utterly unknown. They are not troubled with catarrh, and foot-rot is not very frequent. As exercising a very prejudicial influence upon the welfare of the district, I must mention that a very large per centage of the holders of the runs are absentees, consisting of wealthy Sydney capitalists, or gentlemen who have gone home to spend their incomes in Europe. The runs are inordinately extensive, as you will guess when you remember that the area of the district greatly exceeds that of Victoria, while the number of squatters is scarcely one-half. Oh! for a little of the superfluous energy of your "convention" to assist in forcing Moreton Bay into a condition more worthy of her capabilities!

To a casual visitor of Moreton Bay, nothing is more striking than the very large number of aborigines who still flock into the towns and present themselves to observation in all directions. On Moreton Island, at the entrance to the bay, there is a tribe of sixty or seventy, owning a couple of whale boats, presented to them by the Government for their services in rescuing the crew of a wrecked vessel, and employing themselves in fishing and hunting the turtle, dugong, &c. The streets of Brisbane too are constantly beset by the blacks, and on every side they form an appreciable per centage, even of the labour-power of the colony. Usually they are tolerably well behaved, seem in good health and condition, not greatly deteriorated by contact with that "civilisation" which we cavalierly acknowledge to be their death warrant; and they are still surrounded by those cheerful groups of children which used to be seen around the native camps of Victoria.

Some of the blacks even in the neighbourhood of the town are by no means so pacific as to be implicitly trusted. There is a tribe occupying another island in the bay, notoriously ferocious, and reported to be exceedingly uncompromising in their cannibalism; that last, worst mark of the unmitigated savage. Murders of white men have taken place amongst them within the last few months, while the Government looks on with an unaccountable apathy. It seems very singular that so many of the natives should still be found here, in a longer settled country than with you, while throughout your colony they have melted, and are melting, so rapidly away.

Moreton Bay was thrown open for free settlement about sixteen years ago, and had been a penal settlement for nearly twenty years before that, and yet the blacks are much more numerous, and much less contaminated, than with you. I confess it is difficult to account for this, but observation of the fact freshens up with very considerable intensity long-entertained conviction of the deep wrongs which have been inflicted upon these people; and in this respect I confess that I think the conduct of the Government and people of Victoria infinitely worse than that of any other portion of the continent. Tasmania has her own sins to answer for. Acknowledging that we have the right to take their lands from these people, I have never been able to see anything to justify our *stealing* them, and virtually murdering their original possessors. Were the blacks as powerful and intelligent as the British, we should gladly *buy* their lands at high prices. Were they as powerful and intelligent as the New Zealanders, we should *buy* for a certain allowance of blankets, guns, tomahawks, and other useful things. But because they are helpless as children, and only possessed of the feeblest powers of bargain making, we stoop to steal what we should otherwise be glad to purchase, and with a disdainful off-handedness consign the entire race to a miserable and degraded process of extermination as the natural consequence of an inevitable law,—cowards, tyrants, swindlers that we are!

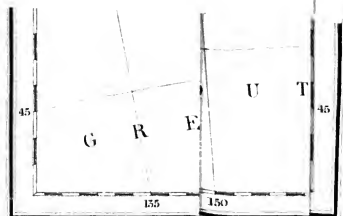
The very helplessness which should most appeal to every manly sympathy within us, is the precise cause of our treating them so shamefully. I see that your

Legislature is so far awakened to its sins that it has had the grace to postpone the vote for the aborigines for increase; and out of many millions received for the sale of land, upon which the blacks have still a primary claim, some five-and-sixpenny augmentation of the paltry grant of £1,250 per annum has, perhaps, by this time been adopted. But that anything like justice has been done, I have no hopes, and I cannot help disowning my share of the profits of what I do not hesitate to denounce as a heartless and cowardly fraud.

“Why! what on earth does the man want?” I hear you say. My want is one very simply expressed. What I want is, that a decent provision for the whole blacks of the colony should be recognised as *the very first charge upon the land fund*. I do not believe that we can honestly divide one penny till this is first provided for. I believe that wholesome food, comfortable clothing, a home if he choose to accept it, medical assistance, and as much instruction as can be conveyed to him compatibly with perfect liberty, ought to be accessible to every black still remaining amongst us, as long as he lives. I do not think that the history of the world presents an instance of a more disgraceful forgetfulness of the distinctions between right and wrong, than is supplied by your cavalier annual distribution of the proceeds of the sale of your town allotments, water frontages, and desirable agricultural sections, without the bestowal of one thought upon the original possessors of all this valuable property. It is quite probable that it may be our lot to be an

instrument in the hand of Providence for the extermination of this race; but we ought to take care that this sorrowful, even while necessary, act shall be performed with due solemnity, and with a compassionate consideration for the poor creature doomed to so pitiable a fate. If the Australian native is to perish irretrievably before us, let us take steps to enable him, like Cæsar, to gather his robes about him, and to fall with decency.





Drawn & Engraved by Pettit & Oulpin

Edm. E. C.

DOWN THE MURRAY, AND THROUGH SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

OF course you know all about the River Murray? One whose special duty it is to keep watch and ward over the interests of the 450,000 inhabitants of Victoria, cannot but be well informed as to the only really great river which they possess; a stream which, for many hundreds of miles constitutes their frontier; and supplies the diggers at the most remote extremity of the colony with seaborne goods at about eight pounds per ton carriage. But many of your readers may not be so thoroughly informed with reference to this noble river, and therefore I will venture by your leave, to give them a few of my experiences during a very pleasant trip down the Australian Mississippi.

A canter up to Sandhurst, by one of Cobb's well-appointed six o'clock coaches, places you in the metropolis of Bendigo, about five in the afternoon, and you have an hour or two to look round at the great progress that the place is making in many of the more essential elements of civilisation. Twice a week a mail car runs from Sandhurst to Echuca on the Murray. The distance is about sixty miles, and a pair horse spring cart conveys you, between the hours of seven in the morning and five in the afternoon,

with proper intervals for breakfast and dinner. For about the last forty miles of the distance you travel down the banks of the Campaspe, along the dead level of the boundless plains by which the Murray is characterised. And I would remark, *en passant*, that when your railway makers reach thus far on their way to the river, they may congratulate themselves on the conviction that their progress will be rapid and easy enough.

Echuca is a recently formed township on the Victorian bank of the river, about a mile and a half (by land) lower than Moama, the New South Wales township, better known by the name of Maiden's Punt. The locality is interesting, as being the point at which the great bulk of the enormous drafts of the live stock of New South Wales, imported into Victoria, crosses the river which forms the boundary. A very enterprising man, of the name of Hopwood, is the Maiden of Echuca, and is doing a great deal to urge forward the township upon which he has bestowed his affections. He has thrown across the Murray a cleverly constructed pontoon bridge, already celebrated in your columns ; and he has lately pushed through Parliament a bill to enable him to build a very expensive bridge to cross the Campaspe, which runs into the Murray close by, and which has there attained dimensions so formidable that the formation of a bridge is much above the usual scope of individual enterprise. The bridge across the Murray is not at present adapted for drays, but sheep are driven over it in large numbers, and horses are led across it readily enough. By these

facilities nearly all the sheep passing the river come across here; while cattle and horses in mobs are still swum across from Maiden's yards, higher up the river.

Once or twice a week, during a considerable portion of the year, the monotony of Echuca is relieved by the arrival, upwards or downwards, of one of the steamers which have been shown the way to hundreds of miles of inland navigation by that Australian Waghorn—the indefatigable Cadell. About eight of these vessels now ply constantly backwards and forwards as long as the depth of the water will permit; their principal trade being to convey stores to the diggings at Beechworth and other localities on the Upper Murray: the supply of the settlers on the banks, and the carriage of their produce to market, however important, being entirely subsidiary to catering for the large number of miners within a reasonable distance of the river.

In one of these steamers I took my departure down the Murray, anxious to judge by ocular observation of the real extent of the advantages secured by the opening up of this great line of internal communication. The steamers employed on the river are about the size and character of those which run between Melbourne and Geelong; indeed, one of them (the "Melbourne") was for some time employed in that trade. The one to which I committed myself was of fair power, and steamed down the river at a good rate; although, as these boats have not yet laid themselves out for passengers, the accommodation on board was not such as to develope with great rapidity

any latent sybarite propensities which might be lurking unsuspected in the organisation. Even the first step on board was somewhat startling to one generally accustomed to *terra firma*. The luxury of a rail to the gunwale was entirely dispensed with to facilitate the working of the ship, and the absence of any barrier whatever between the deck and the river was rather painfully suggestive of involuntary suicide. We tugged after us an iron barge capable of holding about a hundred tons. This little parasite was rather a bore to us all the way down. She was attached by a tow rope of very considerable length; firstly, because, if lashed alongside she interfered with the steering of the steamer; and secondly, because, if the tow rope were otherwise than very long, she would run into us by the action of the current whenever we stopped, with a force calculated to do us both considerable mischief. As she had no cargo on the trip down, she was high out of the water. She had no masts or rigging of any kind, although mustering a crew of three men, who took turns to steer her, and were ready to take all necessary steps to avert misfortune, whenever we had occasion to stop, or the windings of the river produced troublesome complications.

At Echuca the river Murray is shorn of a large portion of its volume. The Edward river (which is little more than an ana-branch* of the Murray, fed by numerous tributaries) separates from it a few miles above, and, after having emptied itself into the Wa-

* A term applied to a portion of a stream separating from it, and again joining it, sometimes after a considerable interval.

kool, joins the parent stream again some hundreds of miles lower down. The Murray, diminished in size by the temporary withdrawal of this portion of its waters, is about three times the width of the Yarra, at Prince's Bridge. It rushes along with a turbulent whirling current of between two and three miles an hour, and, during our whole trip, had been so far replenished by recent rains, and the melting of the snows, as to be very thick and muddy; sufficiently so to be quite cloudy in a tumbler.

In the higher part of the river it is usual, except upon bright moonlight nights, to steam only during the day. The vessel gets under way an hour before sunrise; works steadily along (except when interrupted by having to call somewhere) till an hour after sundown, when she hauls up alongside the bank, makes fast to a gum tree fore and aft, and considers all snug for the night.

Our captain always insisted that we were going ten miles through the water; which, with a current of two or three miles, would give us a rate of twelve or thirteen miles. I fancied that it was a good deal less; and that, probably, owing to our "little incumbrance," in the shape of the barge, we did not make above ten miles altogether.

It is the tendency of all rivers, philosophers tell us, to become more and more serpentine in their course. The set of current from a projecting bank impinges so vigorously on the opposite side as to wear it away very rapidly, and as a new point is formed a new force is thrown with always increasing energy in the other

direction. How long the Murray has thus been sawing with its currents, I leave to the geologists to say ; but the bends are innumerable and of every degree. Frequently the river returns so nearly upon itself that a stone might be easily thrown from the deck of the steamer into the river at another bend. These elbows are so sharp and difficult to deal with, that with a high wind or slight carelessness in steering, the boat is inevitably sent upon the bank, and perhaps runs in among the gum trees, with a very unedifying helplessness. There was something most amusing in the way in which we whisked the old barge round the sharp corners, or dragged her in amongst the branches ; but as she gave us a good deal of trouble, of course it was only human to feel glad at an opportunity of paying her off now and then.

On the third day from Echuca we reached the junction with the Wakool, and the river there widens considerably, as at the junction the two streams seem nearly of equal width.

On the fourth day, the Murrumbidgee poured in its contribution to the principal stream.

The banks at the upper part of the river are clothed pretty thickly with gum trees of average size, and other timber usual in such situations, and the silence and repose of the woods are only disturbed by a few cockatoos, herons, nankeen birds, hawks, and cormorants. Lower down, towards Swan Hill, we come upon enormous plains and swamps, extending as far as the eye can reach, and frequently entirely divested of



Peter & Galpin.

THE LOST BUSHMAN.

London, E. C.

timber. And here, we see wild ducks of three or four varieties, swans, turkeys, native companions, the spoonbill, and the tall white stork. Occasionally, we fall in with that singular bird, the musk-duck, which appears unable to fly, but flutters along the water ahead of the steamer, like a bird that has been winged, and powerfully impregnates the atmosphere around with its peculiar aroma. Snakes appear to be very numerous. They are often seen swimming across the river, and the steamers scarcely ever stop to take in wood, without finding some of them.

At intervals, the sameness of the banks is diversified by a sort of sandhill, which runs down to the river's edge, is of rather richer soil than that usually presenting itself, and is generally adopted as the homestead of the squatter. The soil here is of a bright red colour, strongly reflecting the rays of the sun, and on a warm day, having a very hot, not to say fiery appearance. On these hills we find growing the Murray River pine. It is a very beautiful tree, looking like a large cypress, and presenting a highly ornamental feature in the landscape, both from the elegance of its form, and the richness of its colour. It does not appear to grow very large, or at all events, the soil and climate of the Murray do not appear to be favourable to its development on any grand scale.

The *Quandong*, or native peach, also presents itself hereabouts. I have not seen the fruit in perfection, and therefore am incompetent to decide upon its merits. But, although the settlers speak of using it

for tarts and preserves, its large stone and apparent deficiency of pulp, would lead me to expect to find it very little better than skin and bone.

It has been a long-standing and very well-founded complaint against the squatters of Australia, that while possessed of great privileges in their occupation of the land, they have not done so well with it as they ought to have done, either for themselves or for the country. For years they have been pretending to breed horses, yet nobody can ever get a really good horse when he wants one. They have been pretending to bestow a great deal of attention upon cattle, yet the thrifty housewives of your cities cannot get a thoroughly good milch cow for love or money. Year by year has the progressive alteration in the relative value of the carcase and the wool of the sheep been forcing itself upon the attention, but without awaking anything like corresponding effort on the part of those chiefly responsible to be ready to meet an inevitable demand for increased supplies of animal food. To this dulness of apprehension of their duties—to this off-hand neglect of the natural requirements of an advancing people—to this waste of vast opportunities—I attribute no slight share of the bitter animosity frequently exhibited towards this class. They are looked upon as bad stewards of the public estate, and the natural heir longs to oust them from privileges of which they do not seem competent thoroughly to avail themselves. I have no intention of joining in the attacks upon them by which they are beset, or of

adopting the doctrines of those who deny them any rights, or challenge the services which in their generation they have rendered to these colonies by acting the part of pioneers in the original invasion of our wilds. On the contrary, I have always recognised their claims, and know perfectly well that what with Orders in Council, government proclamations, and *Gazette* notices, both imperial and local, they have, legally, undoubted rights, which we cannot ignore, unless we condescend to take rank amongst repudiating states. But, granting this, and having been always anxious to see those rights estimated and adjusted upon a fair and amicable basis, I still feel that the people of Australia have just cause of complaint against the squatters for the imperfect management of the public property; and in the struggles which will probably be pending for the future between this class and other sections of the community, I am sure that this misuse of the great advantages at their disposal will constitute one of the most serious and least easily answered charges against them.

One is led perforce into reflections of this kind by having brought under one's observation the miserable manner in which many of these settlers live, and how little effort is made by very many of them to surround themselves with even the most obvious and legitimate attributes of civilisation. They are often rich; their annual income is frequently calculated by thousands. A few hundred pounds a year are no object to them. They marry well-educated women, often possessing much refinement and many accomplishments; and yet,

instead of taking steps to make themselves a happy home in the centre of the principal scene of their exertions, they condemn themselves to a sort of solitary confinement in a slab hut. Everything around them is bald, barren, and comfortless; their homes are unhappy; they are teased to give up their pursuits; and just as they become independent and everything smiles upon them, they decide upon breaking up their establishments, sell their runs, and seek that happiness in other countries which they have not had the taste and spirit to secure in the land of their adoption, to which they owe almost everything they possess.

Washington Irving says, that the sight of all others calculated to depress a man's spirits is the yard of a country inn on a wet day. I would almost venture to dispute the palm of genuine dreariness with him, in favour of the attempts at gardening at the stations on the Murray. There you are furnished in all perfection with illustrations of the torpor of the Australian squatter. It is only fair to remark that, irrespective of considerations of soil, the peculiar climate of the Murray is far from favourable to ordinary vegetation. Even at Echuca there is far too little rain; and as you trend away down the river to the north and west, the rain-fall becomes more and more inadequate, the seasons more and more irregular. The ground, even early in the season, seems to become baked as hard as a stone, and the cabbage that you plant looks about as likely to grow and flourish as if it were dibbled into the flag pavement opposite your *Argus* office.

But what I complain of is, that scarcely anything is done to remedy all this. It is easy to sit down and grumble at the climate, but why not adopt every practicable means to obviate its defects? Past these stations upon the banks of the river runs a stream of fine fresh water, never failing in its current and quantity. What more obvious than to arrest some portion of this illimitable supply, and by a simple process of irrigation modify the defects of the climate, and surround the residents of these stations with every luxury which the garden, the farm, and poultry-yard can produce? And yet not in one single instance have I seen anything of this sort even attempted! Rarely is there any cultivation at all; when it is tried, it is on the most meagre scale: a few stunted things are put in, and left to take their chance, or supplied with just that modicum of water which a supply by manual labour is capable of affording.

As to the expense of the arrangement, it would be completely insignificant. There is a little machine called an *impulsorium* working in many of your streets, and consisting of a moveable floor on an inclined plane, upon which a horse is placed. By these means a considerable force is applied, without any labour to the animal that a good horse cannot stand for several hours a day. An ordinary force pump, worked by such machinery, would supply a stream of water capable of thoroughly irrigating several acres of land. Horses, in these regions, are cheap and plentiful, and they might be tended during work by a black fellow or left tied in the *impulsorium*, without being watched

at all. A garden and orchard, in particular, might be daily deluged with water. And with such supply, the very heat which now scorches up the earth into absolute sterility, would become an element in enormous growth,—the combined effects of a high temperature, moisture and the ample manure so easily accessible on a sheep or cattle station, would replace with a tropical growth, the abortive attempts at cultivation which now caricature nature upon the Murray banks. The whole expense of machinery would not exceed a hundred pounds, I should fancy, in each case—a small price to pay for a daily superfluity of all the comforts of the garden, orchard, vineyard, dairy, pigstye, and poultry yard!

Along the whole course of the Murray the blacks still present themselves in considerable numbers. They generally hang about the stations; each homestead having a small staff of them usually resident there, and assisting in the various lighter duties of the bush routine. Catching fish, shooting wild ducks, fetching up horses, carrying messages, chopping wood, occasionally breaking in a colt, riding after cattle, and even shepherding and shearing, many of them make themselves very useful indeed, and some of the settlers speak in most grateful terms of the assistance rendered to them from this quarter when the temptations of the gold discovery carried off all other labour, and reduced stock-owners to the brink of despair. At one station sheep-shearing was in progress, and there were more blacks than white men at work in the wool shed. The settler assured me that of the two the natives were the

best workmen, being more careful in their shearing, and requiring less watching than the European shearers.

The blacks along the Murray are a fine race, as compared with any other Australian blacks that I have seen. Many of the men have most intelligent and interesting countenances; seem to understand everything going on around them, speak fair English, and in general do not appear to be greatly degraded by the drunkenness to which they are invited by so many temptations. Physically, they are often robust and well formed, particularly in the upper portions of their figure,—with good hair in great profusion, frequently extending in a thick fell over their whole bodies. Their legs are almost universally thin and spindling,—a thing for which I cannot account, when the great quantity of walking exercise taken by them is borne in mind. In respect of height, these Murray blacks excel any I have ever met with. I have often heard of blacks of six feet high; but, upon examination, never found any of them to reach that height. In their natural condition they appear tall, because they are usually slim, and their naked condition has the effect of making them look taller than they really are. It is when you come to measure them, or compare them closely with Europeans, that you find out the physical inferiority, even in height, of the ill-fed, ignorant savage, as compared with his better developed brother. But on the Murray, natives of six feet high are not uncommon. Some are met with even above that height, and we saw one

venerable old gentleman, at Swan Hill, who, when he rose from his squatting position, quite startled us by his size, and reduced us to a proper sense of our own personal insignificance, by presenting to our sight a perfect Hercules, of about six feet four. Although at one time fierce, and apt to be troublesome to the settlers, and particularly to over-landing parties, the blacks all along the river have now long been pacific and orderly; with occasional exceptions, not bearing an unfavourable proportion to the misdemeanors of their more civilised neighbours. On the Darling, they are still reported to be troublesome now and then; and the barbarous murder of a stock-keeper at a station on that river, was exciting some attention as we passed down the Murray. A case of sheep-stealing, on the Murray itself, had also led to a fatal result, in the attempt of a squatter to arrest a black, suspected to have been concerned in the offence, and the result of the collision will still form a matter for the consideration of your law courts. When the natives assemble in large numbers for a corroboree, they are apt to experience a difficulty in obtaining food for a hundred or two of hungry people, collected suddenly in one place. The flocks of the settlers offer a temptation too great to be always resisted: hence, an occasional raid, leading, in the instance I refer to, to the unintentional death of one of the supposed offenders.

These tribes still muster a certain proportion of children amongst them; many of them half-caste. And in this neighbourhood, if anywhere in Victoria, an



Peter A. Kalpin

London E. C.

THE AVENGERS.

opportunity is afforded of doing something to arrest the rapid destruction of a very interesting race, whose very many good qualities have never been done justice to by the merciless invaders of their territory, and the annihilation of whom, within a single generation, by the cruel neglect of our Colonial Government, will in all time to come remain one of the blackest spots upon the Australian escutcheon.

On the fifth day after leaving Echuca we reached the junction of the Darling, another very fine stream at this season of the year; and here again the Murray adds considerably to its width, except when hemmed in by the very peculiar cliff which now begins to make its appearance, first on one bank and then on the other. Owing to recent rains the Darling was much flooded, and rolled down its waters in so muddy a stream, that for a time even those of the turbid Murray seemed to refuse to mingle with them. They also washed down with them large quantities of a peculiar weed, like a sort of moss; probably a small aquatic plant grown upon stagnant lagoons now temporarily overflowing. The further discolouration of the water, consequent upon the junction with the Darling, lasted during the remainder of our passage.

This muddiness of the river is very unfavourable to securing a supply of fish. Either the fish cannot see the bait, or they are made sick by the thickness of the water, and will not bite. But from whatever cause, we did not catch one by the hook the whole way down. We got them several times from the blacks, who catch

them cleverly by stretching a long net across the lagoons and hunting them into it, or by striking them with a two-pronged spear. The sorts we procured were the cod-perch, a large yellowish fish called the cat-fish, and the bream, which is an equally good fish with the cod, and which, having been introduced into the Yarra with the cod-fish that were placed there, may at an early day be expected to present themselves to the notice of your Melbourne readers. At Goolwa we saw, in the gunya of a black, the head and shoulders of a most beautiful fish, which is taken in a part of the river where the salt water meets the fresh, and which the blacks call "Mullaway." It was very large, shaped like an English salmon, and its scales had that bright silvery look which is also characteristic of the salmon. We caught a few crayfish, or rather fresh-water lobsters, by lowering a bag at night containing offal. They are very ugly creatures, with bodies armed with sharp spines; but, untempting as they were in appearance, they added something to the rather limited larder of the steamer. A smaller lobster, smooth, and, when shelled, little larger than a prawn, was very palatable, and made a capital dish for breakfast.

In the neighbourhood of the junction of the Darling the banks are enlivened by an abundant growth of a very beautiful plant, apparently a kind of vetch, with a bright pink flower. Pretty as it is, it is suspected of producing effects of a most serious kind when fed upon by horses. Along some portions of the Darling these animals are attacked by a species

of madness of a most furious kind. Under the paroxysms of the disease they frequently die ; and even if they recover, they never after exhibit their original spirit or endurance. By the settlers this frightful disease is generally attributed to the effects of the plant I have mentioned, but considerable mystery still hangs about the subject.

Along the upper part of the Murray we heard constantly of one of the most extraordinary birds that can be conceived. It is usually called the lowan, the brush turkey, or the Mallee pheasant. Although but slightly exceeding the domestic fowl in size, this bird lays an egg even larger than that of a goose. It prepares a nest by raking together a mound of earth of several feet in diameter, in which large numbers of the eggs are deposited, stowed carefully in dried leaves, grass, &c., by the fermentation and gradual heating of which the young birds are hatched. It is believed that the parent watches for the appearance of the young, and even perhaps assists in disinterring them from their cradle-grave ; but in actual incubation she takes no part whatever. These birds are not very delicate, I understand, unless kept long enough to acquire additional savour ; but the eggs are very good, and free from that strong taste which is apt to characterise large eggs.

After steaming steadily on for about six days, we crossed the 141st meridian of longitude, the boundary which separates the colony of Victoria from that of South Australia. We here also bade farewell to New South Wales, which had thus far accompanied us on

the right bank of the river. It appeared to me a most striking illustration of the industrious spirit that marks the South Australians, that at the very first station past the boundary we should find a greater profusion of butter, eggs, milk, &c., than we had met with all the way down. At this station dairying was carried on upon a most extensive scale, and we were offered plenty of capital fresh butter at 1s. 3d. per lb., and of eggs at 1s. 6d. per dozen; while up to this time (although the settlers had been very kind, and had made us welcome to anything they had) we had found a considerable scarcity of such things.

A little further, the river, as if at last tired of wandering on through the interior for so many hundreds of miles, takes a sudden turn to the southward, and directs its course straight to the sea. The high cliffs of which I have before spoken here become more and more frequent, and still more elevated. They consist of a yellow sandstone, with a layer of limestone appearing here and there, and they are remarkable for the exactly level position of the strata. They have been slowly sapped by the action of weather for countless ages; but the stratification has adjusted itself to the water-line, seemingly, with mathematical precision. These rocks are burrowed into holes in all directions, for the purpose of nest-making, by the white cockatoo, and probably other birds. Upon a ledge of one of the rocks, and close to the water, in a very lonely neighbourhood, I was surprised to see a young rabbit skipping along. I believe that a few of these animals have been turned loose by some phi-

lanthropic gentleman, and that they have now become numerous.

After passing the "North-West Bend," the course of the river becomes so straight, and the river itself is so wide, that there is little further danger of running into the banks, and the steamer is consequently kept on her way all night. By dint of this increased progress we found ourselves, early on the morning of the ninth day from Echuca, at Wellington, a township situated just above the point at which the river flows into Lake Alexandrina. It is difficult to calculate the precise distance steamed, on account of the innumerable bends of the river and the various stoppages by the way; but, allowing eight days' steaming for twelve hours at ten miles an hour, and one day of twenty-four hours at the same rate, we have a distance, from Echuca to the head of the lake, of about 1,200 miles—a sufficient length, you will allow, to constitute the Murray a very noble river.

Lake Alexandrina is the finest sheet of fresh water I ever saw. Indeed, so formidable did it look, with a stiff wind blowing up quite a sufficient swell to make one seasick, that I could scarcely believe it to be fresh. Such is the fact however. It is forty or fifty miles long by twelve or fifteen wide, and the shores around it recede into the dim distance until they become invisible, in the way which we are accustomed to associate only with ideas of salt water. Supplied almost entirely by the Murray, the whole lake retains the muddy tinge of which I have spoken, and this sadly detracts from the otherwise beautiful appearance

of this magnificent sheet of water. Facing the stiff south-wester, which was forcing up the waves of this miniature sea, we reached the point at which the lake again narrows into the form of a river, and thus it continues for thirty or forty miles, bounded on one side by the bank, and on the other by Hindmarsh Island, till the steamer reaches Goolwa, its ultimate destination. The Murray then flows on for ten or twelve miles, and reaches the sea by the mouth which is so inadequate a termination for so noble a river. This mouth is almost closed by a bank of shifting sand of a most troublesome character, in attempting to cross which an outward bound vessel is met by a very heavy swell rolling in from the south-west, which is apt to cause her to broach to, and to set her on the beach. This fate had happened to the "Corio" just as we were descending the river, and all communication by water between the Murray and Adelaide had been thereby summarily suspended. The difficulties of this mode of communication with the sea have led the South Australians to the consideration of all sorts of schemes for supplying so great a want. At present none of them seem to be very successful.

Goolwa, being the principal port of departure for the Murray, and the nearest point from which Adelaide is accessible, is rather a rising place, although at present small and unpretending enough. From it to Port Elliot, in Encounter Bay, runs a very well-made tramway, by which produce is transmitted at a cheap rate, either previous to its shipment in the vessels in port or its discharge from them. This tramway is

well worthy of some study. If something of the kind had been made in 1852-3-4, between Melbourne and the principal diggings, new lights would by this time have been thrown upon the railway question, and millions of money would have been saved to the colonists which have now been irrecoverably wasted. The tramway runs through seven miles of country tolerably favourable for its formation ; it is formed of iron rails laid on transverse wooden sleepers, and is worked exclusively by horse-power ; it cost 3,000*l.* per mile, during the dear times. Upon it two horses can draw fourteen tons at a trot. I leave you to judge how far such a mode of conveyance would have answered your purpose during the last few years, instead of turnpike roads, slowly formed at an enormous expense, and soon to be superseded by railways. An examination of the Goolwa and Port Elliot tramway would be of service even now, as a similar line would be eminently suitable for many localities not yet ripe for the fully developed railway. And here, having brought my narrative to that point at which we find ourselves safely landed at Goolwa, I ought to conclude the sketch of my trip down the Murray. But as I find myself on the threshold of a colony which, whatever it may have to learn from us, has many a lesson to teach us of a very useful character indeed, I shall venture to intrude still further upon you with a few details of the more interesting features of the colony of South Australia.

In visiting the colony of South Australia, I had made up my mind to expect a combination of intelligent industry and sound practical development, with a little of that insignificance almost inseparable from a limited community. For years past I have been thrown into constant contact with very intelligent gentlemen from South Australia, who had struck me as being singularly enthusiastic in their appreciation of the manifold virtues of that colony. I had not felt altogether inclined to give implicit belief to all this, and the very extravagance of their eulogies had provoked a sort of antagonism within me. It seemed to me that these gentlemen had allowed their feelings to run away with them. I like enthusiasm, but I also distrust it. A sort of unbelief comes across me when I find assurances obtruded upon me that the Garden of Eden was situated on the banks of the Torrens, that the tree of knowledge grew at the corner of Hindley Street, and that the original cause of coolness between Cain and Abel was a difference of opinion on the eighty-acre system.

But even the casual inspection of a very small portion of the surface of South Australia convinced me that there really was much connected with that colony to enlist the sympathies and justify the encomium of every well-wisher of Australia. I have already mentioned that at the very first step across the boundary we were met by a remarkable development of patient and painstaking industry. The same spirit is perceptible over the whole colony. Its resources may not bear comparison with those of some of its still richer

neighbours; but whatever those resources may be, they are certainly in course of development in a very intelligent and industrious manner. As soon as you reach Lake Alexandrina, patches of cultivation, comfortable homesteads, steam flour-mills, thriving townships, appear on all sides; and you feel that you are in a country which is being rapidly awakened to the eager wants of a civilised people.

I scarcely ever experienced so delightful a sensation as was produced by a view suddenly bursting on the sight upon reaching the brow of a hill above the township of Willunga, a pretty little hamlet about halfway between Goolwa and Adelaide. All day we had toiled on through a miserably barren country, with jaded horses and a wrecked vehicle, till both patience and temper had well-nigh given way. The dreary gum scrub, the endless alternation of hill after hill, had been but feebly relieved by occasional fine prospects and the profusion of beautiful wild flowers, which in Australia usually appear to select the most uninviting soils for their homes. But, just as the sun sank, the gloomy scrub seemed suddenly to melt away behind us, and a scene broke upon the view unlike anything I have ever seen since I left England. From the hill I speak of, a tract of country is visible for several miles in every direction—north, west, and south; and till it meets the sea, which fills up the background, it seems one continuous piece of cultivation. At the distance of thirty miles the haze of a large city indicates the site of Adelaide; and everywhere else the dappled sides of the gentle hills, the

enclosures over miles upon miles of plain, the hedged gardens, the well-grown orchards, and comfortably-appointed homesteads proclaimed the possession of the land by an industrious and thrifty yeomanry—its salvation from the clutches of that worst of all landlords, the Government.

The patches of green crop in luxurious growth, contrasted with the earlier cereals here and there yellowing for harvest, the dark soil in one place fresh ploughed for a summer fallow, in another prettily dotted with the haycock, brought back in an instant all one's recollections of a great agricultural country. For nearly a score of years my eyes had never rested upon such a scene of continuous cultivation. It was the realisation of a long-cherished dream. For years I have been labouring, in my humble sphere, to awaken my neighbours to the possibilities presented to them in this very direction by the capacity of such fine countries as these, and have advocated as strongly as I could the breaking up of ancient monopoly, the sturdy wrestling with the soil, and its conversion to the best possible uses. I have urged forward, as well as I could, cultivation in every form—the increase of agricultural acreage, the extension of the garden, the spread of the orchard, experiment with the vineyard; but here I found it all realised before my eyes—the results which I had theoretically advocated represented in all practical identity.

Since that day I have passed through the more interesting portions of South Australia, and have found everything calculated to confirm the impression

then formed. A good land system has thrown open the country freely to the people, and they have creditably, industriously, and intelligently availed themselves of it. It is England in miniature—England without its poverty, without its monstrous anomalies of individual wealth-extravagances, thrown into unnecessary and indecent relief by abounding destitution. It is England; with a finer climate, with a virgin soil, with freedom from antiquated abuses, with more liberal institutions, with a happier people; and this is what I have always thought and hoped that Australia would become. It was in view of scenes like this that I first felt fully the ecstasy of a realised day-dream.

The South Australian land-system runs greatly upon eighty-acre sections. Surveys may be claimed summarily all over the colony, and the market is constantly kept supplied with eligible land at the upset price. Sections of eighty acres being the rule,—a sort of established institution,—you find the whole surface of the country divided into plots of this size. And a very good size too! A labouring man knows that with the industrious application of a year or two he can save £80, and he concentrates his attention upon acquiring that sum.

Meanwhile he is learning every day something to fit him for becoming a farmer in a new climate, and he is looking round carefully for an eligible site for his future operations. After he has purchased his land he perhaps has still to work on till he has procured the means of fencing it and purchasing a team

of bullocks or pair of horses. At last he is the proud possessor of a home of his own, and sturdily he buckles to his task of becoming an independent farmer. His first crop probably leaves him a comparatively rich man; his second enables him to buy another section or two adjoining his first; and thus, little by little, he becomes a thriving landowner and agriculturist;—not so fast as to lead to intoxication at his position, and consequent mistakes—not so slowly as to dishearten him from effort, or to deaden his energies in any way. And it is by the multiplication of such men that South Australia is what she is, and that she is raising rapidly a race of industrious yeomen that will compare favourably with anything in the known world.

Impelled by such influences, everything seems cheap and plentiful. The condition of the people is most gratifying, quite irrespective of money considerations. And here I must express my doubts whether your political economists, who argue so clearly and conclusively upon all sorts of subjects, do not often lose sight of the real blessedness of cheapness. I know that it is a rash thing to run counter to their doctrines, or to challenge the conclusions at which they so skilfully arrive. A country ought, doubtless, to devote its principal energies to the production of that article for which nature has specially adapted it, and rest contented with exchanging its superfluity for the good things produced in superfluity elsewhere. But so far as the more simple elements of comfort and luxury are concerned, I have always felt inclined to believe that the country is happiest

which produces them in the greatest abundance, and in which things of this kind are common, plentiful, and cheap. Men may get rich less rapidly; but they are better, healthier, happier men. Life is better worth having, and the current of existence runs on in a more equable, natural, and wholesome stream. A great grain-producing people are not only well supplied with the most essential staff of life, but with all its kindred comforts and blessings. Plenty of wheat means plenty of hay, oats, and garden-stuff; plenty of fruit and vegetables; plenty of fowls, eggs, butter, pork, cheese, and milk. And in the profusion of these, and in the well-fed, healthy wife and children, consequent upon their profusion, no slight portion of the happiness of the natural man is involved. You may shake your monster nuggets at me and talk of the convenience of a multiplicity of such representatives of wealth; but your highly-paid artisan may live in a noisome alley; your prosperous digger may be continually one mass of mud, and never know a comfortable meal. And in spite of all the writings of all the economists, in spite of a very profound deference generally to the doctrine of national adaptation to national peculiarities, I shall live and die in the conviction of the happiness ever associated with agricultural operations, of the *blessedness of cheapness*, and the profusion of the simpler good things of mother earth.

To show the difference of the two colonies, I may mention that at the last hotel I visited in Victoria, I paid four and sixpence for every meal I ate. At the

very first hotel in South Australia, I paid two shillings for a better meal, with all the adjuncts to comfortable refreshment in far greater profusion and of much better quality.

Two things struck me forcibly in my progress through the country—the number of the flour mills, and the number of enclosures surrounded by well-grown hedges. If the matter were diligently looked into, I believe it would be found that the languid condition of your agriculture has been in no slight degree attributable to a sort of monopoly of milling. Too much power has been allowed to get into a few hands, with regard to dictating the price of agricultural produce ; and it has been sometimes used in an unscrupulous manner.

With a multiplicity of mills this becomes impossible, and I look upon it as a very healthy sign that in a colony with such agricultural tendencies as this, mills should abound on all sides.

With respect to hedges, it is rather singular to notice the deficiency of Victoria, as compared with her sister colonies. In Tasmania, particularly towards the southern end of the island, the whole country is cut up into compartments with beautifully close hedges of sweetbriar ; and the effect, both on the eye and nostril, is excessively pleasing : the whole air is literally perfumed. In South Australia they affect the prickly acacia,—found in perfection, I believe, on Kangaroo Island. This makes a beautiful hedge. It grows rapidly ; with proper attention becomes very close, and forms an admirable shelter for the garden and orchard.

It has the disadvantage of being liable to destruction by fire, igniting readily, and burning furiously even in a green state. The universality of these hedges here, and the charming addition which they make to the cultivated appearance of the colony, tend to make one sadly dissatisfied with the naked look of your stereotyped post and rail. I do hope as cultivation extends amongst you that your country people will bestow some attention upon hedges.

Before dismissing the subject of cultivation, I would mention that I was informed by an intelligent gentleman that the quantity of land under crop this year in South Australia amounted to *two acres per head* for every man, woman, and child in the colony. The quantity of land under cultivation in Victoria is about 180,000 acres, or averaging a fraction more than three-eighths of an acre per head. At the South Australian average, it should be about 900,000 acres. Your soil and climate are even more suitable for agriculture than those of your neighbour to the westward. If you had 900,000 acres under crop, what would probably be the average number of your "unemployed?"

However favourably one may speak of the country districts of these colonies, one is always obliged to refer to the discomforts of the large towns. Adelaide has many advantages of situation, and has in some respects been well laid out. And yet, during several months of the year, it is virtually uninhabitable. Yes, as unfit for the residence of man as your much-vaunted

Melbourne, and from the self-same causes. The dust, in particular, is incessant and overwhelming. I once heard Adelaide described as a city in which you had to wash the dust out of your mouth in the morning before you could speak, and in which at any time of the day you could hear your eyelids grate when you winked. I used to think this an exaggeration, but actual inspection satisfies me that the dustiness of Adelaide can scarcely be exaggerated.

But for this peculiarity it would be an agreeable town enough. And I must say that I lose all patience when I find the habitableness of all these great Australian cities destroyed by the absence of even the most simple measures to render them agreeable. Really, it seems to me, that when a few scores of thousands of civilised people, tolerably well off, agree to live in immediate juxtaposition, their very first step should be to provide a sort of organisation amongst themselves which should render the common place of abode as little annoying—nay, as greatly attractive as possible. And when I find people gathering together in large numbers, and satisfied to live on year after year, in filth and discomfort, I ask myself how it is that we are still content to exhibit so large an infusion of the nature of the savage and the swine. This nuisance of dust has been a chronic affection of our Australian cities from the first, and yet nowhere, neither in Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide, or Hobart Town, has there been anything like adequate provision made for dealing with an annoyance which renders each of these cities intolerable to any one with an average love of cleanliness.

As to the economy of the thing, it is infinitely more expensive to be annoyed in this way than to be freed from the annoyance. There is not an individual residing in one of these dusty cities who does not sacrifice ten times the sum in clothes alone that it would require to get his quota of the dust laid. Every man in trade sacrifices a hundred-fold in depreciation of stock. And what he sacrifices by lost business it is impossible to conceive. Every person who can afford it runs away from the dust-beset town, and takes up his residence in a healthier and pleasanter suburb. Small traders follow these runaways, and lay themselves out to provide for local wants, till the city is only resorted to occasionally, and for a few things. Strangers who have any freedom in their actions run from such regions as if the cities were visited by the plague, and deter others from visiting them by vivid descriptions of their discomforts. Land declines in value, rents are reduced, everybody suffers. A watering-rate of one halfpenny in the pound rental would prevent all this. It is comparatively cheap and profitable to be clean. It is expensive and wasteful to be dirty. Therefore, we eschew cleanliness, and adhere to dirt.

In one thing the people of Adelaide are setting a very good example: they are taking active steps in planting the city. Private persons are allowed, with proper restrictions, to plant along the kerb in front of their premises; and along all the terraces which surround the town, and in all the squares which occur at frequent intervals, quick-growing and ornamental

trees have been placed by the corporation. I think they have been injudicious in the selection of the kinds, as I am in favour of deciduous trees as applied to these purposes. In winter there should be the freest action of the sun and wind to dry up the muddy streets, and this shady trees would in some sort prevent. It is in summer that we want the shade and the green colour to relieve the eye from the incessant glare, and we should get this more perfectly from some of the deciduous forest trees of other countries. In a discussion which took place some years ago the choice rested between the sycamore and the thorny acacia. I wish the chiefs of your new municipalities—your Services, Sargoods, Masons, &c.—would turn a small portion of their thoughts in the direction of planting. It may not commend itself just now to the utilitarian spirit of the day; but if we look forward for a few years, we shall then see the effect that would be produced. For Melbourne or Geelong I fear that all suggestion or remonstrance is, for the present, useless.

Adelaide, as you no doubt know, is situated on a very extensive plain. The Torrens runs through it, and supplies it with water. The river, during the summer months, is very insignificant, being of little more pretensions than the Merri Creek or Moonee Ponds. Slender as is the stream, however, it continues to run all through the year, and the water is of tolerable quality. Waterworks upon a rather large scale are in progress, the water being dammed up about ten miles from town, and the water will be

brought in by gravitation. Upon one side Adelaide is sheltered by a range of hills, of which, considering their extreme beauty, I am surprised that I have heard so little. These hills are distant about five miles at the nearest point ; the highest, Mount Lofty, appears to be 1,400 or 1,500 feet high, but is reported to be above 2,000. The tiers slope down into the plains the entire way from the coast to the Burra Burra, a hundred miles up the country, presenting everywhere a very beautiful appearance. Gently undulating, sometimes well covered with timber, sometimes open down, broken up into all sorts of pleasing forms, the eye never tires of resting on these delightful ranges. As the sun rises, culminates, and declines, new beauties of light and shadow reveal themselves, and every passing cloud adds its quota to the general effect. Here and there, in the richer and more sheltered situations, patches are broken up for cultivation, and little corners of intense green add variety to the landscape, and shew the all-pervading industry of man.

The gardens in the neighbourhood of Adelaide exceed any that I have ever seen in the colonies ; they are very extensive, highly cultivated, and most productive. In due season fruit abounds to such an extent that much of the more perishable kinds is lost altogether. The kinds range from the gooseberry to the loquat and the orange. Extensive olive gardens present themselves here and there, but to my great surprise no use whatever is made of the produce. The ground under the trees is actually black with fallen

fruit, but the expense of preserving them or of extracting the oil is so great that it is found preferable to allow the abundant crops to perish altogether. A very experienced gardener on a large scale told me that he had offered to *give* anybody the whole crop if they could make any use of it, but nobody had accepted the offer.

The orange is being successfully cultivated by Mr. Gwynne, a lawyer in large practice, and by several other gentlemen. Mr. Gwynne has seven acres of orangery, and his trees, although still young, look very flourishing, and are beginning to yield bountifully. The South Australians do not yet fully supply themselves with this valuable fruit, but the time is approaching when they will do so, and when the spirit of the more enterprising of their gardeners will receive a rich reward. The vine is being extensively cultivated, and with satisfactory results. Few of your Victorian readers will be altogether ignorant of the magnificent grapes forwarded from South Australia during the earlier portion of the season. You will scarcely see anything like them from your own colony. Wine-making is progressing in numerous directions, and I have tasted several kinds quite up to the best average of New South Wales. The wines of South Australia, like those of the elder colony, are liable to a certain earthy taste, which is disagreeable. This puzzles the wine-maker, and is attributed to various causes. My own idea is that the vines are grown on too rich a soil, and that the new colonist, habituated to devote his energies upon the best land accessible,

inconsiderately adopts the same rule with the vine that he finds to answer with wheat and the potato, and does not allow himself to be sufficiently guided by the experience of other countries. You must not suppose that all the wines produced here are subject to this ill flavour; on the contrary, many that I have met with are perfectly free from all objection of this sort, and would pass muster amongst experienced wine-tasters in any country.

The railway and electric telegraph are progressing here at a moderate rate. The former has already connected Adelaide with the port, a distance of eight miles, and also stretches away to Gawler Town, twenty-five miles into the interior, on the road towards the great copper mines at Burra Burra. These lines are in the hands of Government, and badly worked. Little attention is paid either to punctuality or regularity of working in any respect. Your ticket is either asked for two or three times, or not asked for at all; and to my intense amusement, I saw a lady unprovided with tickets for herself and friend, count out the fare in coppers to the guard appointed to receive the tickets, and even send him away for the necessary change. The electric telegraph, which is to be put into communication with ours at the border, is being proceeded with, although, in many respects, not in a very artistic manner. The line runs from Goolwa, alongside the road to Adelaide, but it zigzags over the hills in a manner so incomprehensible, that it would greatly shock the well-ordered faculties of your superintendent. Perhaps a strong conviction of the increased energy of

the electric current, in the form of forked lightning, has led these worthy people into such eccentricities.

In politics things seem to have settled down into a sort of jog-trot. The leading politicians, as in all these colonies, have expended a great deal of their strength in selfish struggles for power. But the people, also as with you, are quite tired of this sort of interruption to public business, and have peremptorily insisted upon better things. The present ministry seems pretty safe, if they are but reasonably judicious. There is a good deal of ability amongst them ; and in Mr. Hanson, the Attorney-General, in particular, I am inclined to think that I recognised the ablest public man in all these Australian colonies. As Private Secretary to Lord Durham, and in other respects favourably situated, he has been drilled in public affairs from early youth ; and he is a man of great natural capacity. With a graceful and sagacious reticence, very uncommon to our Australian politicians, he is quiet, reserved and unobtrusive in his style of dealing with public affairs, although, when he chooses, he can dart with lion-like power upon an antagonist.

The Governor and his lady are very popular, and seemingly deservedly so. They mix freely in society, and take a lead in all the amusements of the place—assisting to organise musical parties, archery meetings, flower shows, and other elegant forms of recreation. Sir Richard himself is spoken of as rather too clever a man for his position, and as being rather inclined to chafe under the restraints inherent to the condition of the strictly constitutional Governor. He is a fine,

powerful, masculine fellow, full of life, vigour, and animal spirits; hospitable, devoted to out-of-door pursuits, and a perfect Ulysses with the bow. Lady Macdonnell is young, very pretty and intelligent, and so manages to dispense the good offices of her position, as to secure the friendly word of everybody, and to be spoken of everywhere as a kind, genuine, and loveable little woman.

Chief amongst the objects of interest of South Australia, the very Nero of her lions, is, of course, the wonderful copper mine at Burra Burra. This is situated due north of Adelaide, at a distance of about one hundred miles. You travel over a vast plain almost the whole way, bounded on either side by the lovely tiers of which I have spoken. For the first twenty-five miles you proceed by railway, and then take coach over a road, generally good, but sometimes very bad indeed. The Burra mine itself is one of the most busy scenes conceivable. The company employ about 900 men and boys; whose sole business it is to dig out the ore and prepare it for market. The smelting is done by another company, who purchase the whole yield of the mining company, and reduce it to the condition of pure copper, ready for shipment. The mines themselves are, of course, on a gigantic scale. The ground is worked at depths varying a few yards from the surface, to the lowest level at sixty fathoms. The earth is pierced by galleries to the extent of upwards of six miles. The mine has paid the shareholders more than sixty-two times the original capital, and is still increasing in prosperity. Other mines exist at Kapunda

and other places, but none to compare in richness or extent with this.

I intended to have given you a few further particulars respecting South Australia, but I find that my sketches of the Murray River and the very interesting colony to which it leads, have run out to an inordinate length, and I will therefore here bring my narrative to a conclusion.



THE FOUND BUSHMAN.

A GLANCE AT NEW ZEALAND.



It is a good remark, that New Zealand has been peopled rather before its time. Many things present themselves to the observant visitor which seem to sustain this proposition of the philosopher. In the neighbourhood of Auckland, the capital of the colony, proof of volcanic agency everywhere appears. The whole surface is covered with scorïæ; blocks of burned stone ejected by subterranean fires abound; and crateriform hills are seen in every direction. At Wellington, the southern extremity of the northern island, earthquakes of greater or less intensity are almost of daily occurrence. While right through the centre of the same island, from the Bay of Plenty on the N. E. to the boundary of the New Plymouth Province on the S. W., there runs a belt of country in which mighty subterranean forces are still at work—volcanoes belch forth their smoke, and occasionally lurid flames; hot springs, the seethings of hidden caldrons, bubble up in unceasing flow; and solfatâras of vast extent and energy effloresce in deadly beauty—all tending to shew either the thinness of the crust separating New Zealand from the incandescent mass below, or the terrific power of the gasses struggling for vent.

Awakened during one of my first nights in Auckland by a tremendous thunderstorm, and remember-

ing that the island was even yet in a sort of perpetual shiver, that hot water and sulphurous steam were striving for vent with more than Cyclopean might, I found myself rather disposed to give assent to the proposition with which I commenced. And I could not help asking myself if it indicated perfect prudence on my part thus needlessly to commit the safety of my earthly tabernacle to a geological baby like this—a little island far separated from any *terra firma*—an infant fire-born, still puling and puking in its mother's arms. So general, so direct is the tendency of this mysterious internal heat towards the surface, that I was assured by my landlady in Auckland that the water in her well is sometimes quite warm, and that till she knew that its warmth arose from natural causes, she used to fancy that her servant had put hot water in the bucket in which it was brought in for use.

The region of hot springs is already a favourite resort for the tourist, and as the country is opened up by improved means of communication and increased civilisation amongst the natives, your travellers from Australia will not be able to find health, novelty, and interest combined, so readily attainable in any other direction.

The hills in the immediate neighbourhood of Auckland, consisting entirely of extinct volcanoes, and usually presenting their respective craters in very perfect form, run from about 400 to 600 feet in height. I ascended one or two of them, and counted nearly twenty within an area of a very few miles. They stand singly, dotted over a country otherwise level in

its character, and give a very peculiar appearance to the landscape. In almost every instance they have been shaped into an elaborate system of terracing by the Maories in bygone times, and have apparently been occupied as war-pahs, and very strongly fortified, at a time when the natives were far more numerous as well as far more savage than they are now. On the levels of the several terraces hollows have been scooped out, which served either for places of shelter or storehouses for the garrison; and all over their surface enormous quantities of small sea shells are seen, either indicating the time when the whole country was below the level of the sea, or shewing a most tremendous consumption of a particular delicacy on the part of the aboriginal possessors of the soil.

These hills are usually covered with fern, or some other coarse vegetation, and they are practically useless except as affording a limited amount of pasture to the sheep or cattle of the adjacent farmers. It struck me that the sides, sheltered from the prevailing winds, would furnish a capital opportunity for the formation of vineyards—the vine not generally thriving very well, even in the northern parts of New Zealand, without a little assistance in the way of sun and site to add to the fostering influences which the natural climate affords.

With the immediate neighbourhood of Auckland I was rather disappointed. The land is generally far from good, being everywhere beset with the eternal scoræ, and greatly overgrown with the all-pervading fern. In some directions the natural growth has been

superseded by British grasses, particularly rye-grass and white clover, and the result has been so encouraging as to lead to very brilliant expectations for the future. I believe that the singular adaptability of English grasses to the soil and climate of New Zealand will apply to almost the whole extent of both islands; and the results attained are of the most astonishing character. So well does the humid and temperate character of the country suit these vigorous vegetable immigrants, that once sown in any neighbourhood they spread of their own accord with great rapidity, and the quantity of stock which they will feed to the acre contrasts most startlingly with all Australian experiences. I saw a paddock of 16 acres in which 140 sheep were depastured, and I was told that they were kept there all the year round. And more than this, the sheep in question were not the usual little starvling merino, but three-quarter bred Leicesters, and as fat as they could roll. I believe that this is no unusual proportion, and that as the imported grass extends its range over the country, the amount of stock depastured, and of wool and tallow produced for export, will be so considerable as to enable New Zealand to take an important place amongst the countries contributing to the staple manufactures of the mother country.

In gardening and agriculture New Zealand appeared to me very deficient, both in the neighbourhood of Auckland, and wherever else I travelled. The range of prices seems disproportionately high in towns like these, where the disturbing influences of gold

discoveries are scarcely felt, as compared with yours, where their action is excessive. Many of the necessities of life are actually dearer in Auckland, Wellington, and Nelson, at the time I write, than they are in Melbourne, and I must confess that I cannot augur very favourably for the general prospects of that country, which, having but a very moderate list of exports to pay for imported luxuries, still enters into competition as to the simple necessities of life with colonies far richer in this respect than any country in the world. If New Zealand is ever to take a high position, it must be through that process which exhibits general cheapness as one of its principal characteristics. And great as are its advantages, its condition cannot be pronounced healthy while the expense of living seems out of all reasonable proportion with the average income of its inhabitants. "Agriculture does not pay," is the cry here, as with you; and, perhaps, as a natural sequel, the garden is also neglected. But *agriculture does pay* amongst the industrious, enterprising, and exemplary people of South Australia, with a scale of wages even higher than that of New Zealand, and there the garden is diligently attended to throughout the length and breadth of the land.

As to agriculture here, it seems to me that the Maori is acting a better part towards the colony than the invading white man. The natives bring enormous quantities of produce of various kinds into Auckland, and in sailing down the eastern coast to Wellington I was both astonished and delighted to observe the ex-

tent of Maori cultivation. For hundreds of miles you see their little irregular patches of paddock running right down to the water's edge, and climbing away to the very tops of the hills. They are not particularly orderly or continuous in their cultivation, but just take a piece of good land as they find it, whatever its size and shape may be, turn it over laboriously by hand-work with the spade and hoe, and grow wheat, potatoes, maize, kumera or sweet potato, pumpkins, melons, and several other things. The effect of this patchy style of cultivation, viewed from the sea, is very peculiar. The crops were just ripening for harvest, and, running down the various slopes and gullies to the very beach, they looked as if the whole land were overflowing with rich golden grain, which was being poured forth in copious streams by every possible outlet—shovelled out literally into the sea. I did not hear that the Maories complained that "agriculture does not pay." On the contrary, the spirit with which they follow it up looks as if, upon the whole, they are reasonably satisfied with the results; and yet, while in Auckland the price of flour was higher than it was in Melbourne, I found the Maori price for wheat along the coast was about 3s. a bushel. Their price for pork was 3d. a lb., for potatoes about 6s. a cwt., for apples 1d. a lb., and so on.

As we ran for shelter into little nooks and bays, we found that at intervals of a few miles a white man or two had usually taken up quarters amongst the Maories, and acted as the principal merchants for the neighbourhood, purchasing the produce of the natives,

and shipping it to Auckland or Wellington by such opportunities as offered. These men are not generally of a very eligible class, consisting of runaway sailors, whalers, and occasionally a convict; but they seem to get on amicably with their neighbours, usually marry or cohabit with Maori women, rear families more or less numerous, and are the influential men of their immediate districts.

However, my pet topic of agriculture is running away with me from Auckland before I have quite done with it, and leading me to discourse of the natives, who very richly deserve a chapter to themselves.

A leading feature of the capital of this colony is its intense officialism. I expected to find this the case in visiting New Zealand, because I had formed a very high opinion of the intelligence and other valuable qualifications of the class of colonists who have resorted thither, and also because I thought the peculiar form in which responsible government has been presented to New Zealand rather calculated to develop this kind of thing. But the reality far exceeded anything I anticipated; and if all else connected with the colony were as flattering as its best friends could desire, she would still have to be greatly upon her guard as to the terrible evils consequent upon being *over-governed*—she would still have to steer a ticklish course to avert hopeless entanglement in labyrinths of red tape.

In my various wanderings and observations upon men and things, I have always been astonished at the

large proportion of the community whose predilections seemed to point in the direction of public employment. It has often struck me as remarkable that it seemed to require about one-half mankind to govern the other half; and having, unfortunately I suppose, not one drop of the Barnacle and Stiltstalking blood in my veins, never having been permitted to touch red tape in my life, and having no relation on earth, I believe, who ever did touch it, I find myself quite out of my element amongst a race of highly respectable and very official gentlemen, every one of whom seems to have a finger in the public purse. In these regions every other man you meet is official: if not Governor or Colonial Secretary, he is sure to be a Superintendent or Provincial Secretary, a Land Commissioner, a Native Commissioner, Police Magistrate, Collector of Customs, or something of that sort. How such an infinity of officials can diet amicably off such a very limited revenue as that of New Zealand it is beyond my capacity to explain. Perhaps the truth may be that Barnacle, although hungry and exacting enough when funds are ample, is contented with very small doings indeed rather than betake himself to any other line of business. Is not this a valuable hint for you? The general revenue of the entire colony of New Zealand amounts, I believe, to about £120,000, yet throughout the entire colony does Barnacle abound to absolute repletion. You have charged *your* Government with chronic and systematic extravagance,—a charge which might be urged with still greater persistency and emphasis. Let them look to New Zea-

land, and they will find, amongst a great deal of evil in the unnecessary multiplication of officials, this important fact, that the New Zealanders get a Secretary, Treasurer, or some other leading sort of man, with undoubted capacity and some claims even to statesmanship, for about the same salary that you throw away upon a fifth-rate post-office or custom-house clerk. *Verb. sap.*

A main reason for the undue multiplication of officials here is to be found in the ridiculous entanglement of Parliaments with which responsible government in New Zealand has been hampered. Besides the general Parliament, consisting of a Legislative Council and House of Assembly sitting in Auckland, we have a local Parliament meeting annually in each of the capitals of the several provinces—Auckland, Wellington, Nelson, Taranaki, Christchurch, and Otago. Each province has its Superintendent, not sitting in Parliament, but communicating with it in the most regal manner by "message." Each Superintendent has his Executive Council, consisting of Provincial Secretary, Treasurer, and Law Adviser.

An active antagonism has set in between the general and the local Governments; your local magnate generally being quite sufficiently greedy of power; quite eager enough to elevate himself and his ministry by cribbing a little from the principal Government at Auckland. By a most absurd hallucination this tendency has been greatly developed by a very false step on the part of the general Government, in handing over the control of the lands to the Provincial Councils, which transference of authority

naturally carries with it very great additional power. This foolish and mischievous step has, I believe, been negatived by the wisdom of the authorities in the mother country ; and it is to be hoped that it may be so, for it is the only way apparently practicable out of a very serious difficulty. The ill consequences of the concession were admitted everywhere that I visited, and the increased power of the Provincial Councils was everywhere deprecated. But it is one thing to acknowledge an objectionable tendency, and another to give up acquired power, and but for the action of the Imperial Government I do not see how the very injurious increase of local authority would ever have been checked.

The evils of six different land systems, of six sets of land regulations, in a couple of little islands barely large enough to form one good colony, will be apparent to any one who has ever studied the science of colonisation. The bidding against one another for the mere handful of immigration at present annually thrown upon these shores, by more and more favourable regulations for the acquisition of land, has already, I fear, produced irremediable evils. The land gained with difficulty from the natives is becoming rapidly alienated at very low prices, and in very large blocks, and the colonists would probably only have wakened to the conviction that they have wantonly parted with their heritage, when the great attraction to immigration is gone for ever, and the land lies permanently locked up under the incubus of a hopeless monopoly.

Somehow or other the aboriginal has always been a special hobby with me. He is invariably ill-used by his invading, civilised brother. Too often that ill-usage amounts to everything criminal and atrocious ; and I blush to say that I have long since come to the conclusion that the modern Englishman is in this respect as cruel and unprincipled a scoundrel as the world has ever seen.

Adopting the convenient theory, that the black man naturally perishes before the white, he looks on during the process with a cold-blooded indifference worthy of a Nero. And as the poor black passes away before the insidious attacks of his merciless invader, his destroyer endeavours to ease his conscience by slandering the race which he is rapidly consigning to annihilation. The case of the black is never heard. Crimes are attributed to him of which he was never guilty. Virtues are ignored, which, properly understood, would stand out in bright relief indeed. Misunderstandings are all construed in favour of the party who wields the pen or speaks the tongue of the invader, and the original occupier of the soil quickly vanishes, a ruined, a belied, and, practically a murdered man.

The aboriginal has never full justice done him, even if he survive the contact with the conquering race. This habitual disparagement of the native occurs even with ourselves with reference to our own forefathers. We hear a great deal of the varied virtues of our invading progenitors ; but who ever has a word to say in favour of the original stock ?

It is my opinion that this constituent of our national organisation has been very unnecessarily disparaged or lost sight of, and, while doing all justice to the hardy spirit of our Danish parent, the patient intelligence of the Saxon, and the fire and energy of the Norman, I cannot help thinking we probably still owe something to the mothers who met these enterprising sires : that we are not true to our genealogy in so readily ignoring the probable claims to remembrance of the great aboriginal dam, whose blood also goes to the composition of the highly elaborated mongrel that we are.

It was the excessive beauty of the island children that first brought Christianity amongst us, and as it seems very probable that physical excellence was far from being the only attractive characteristic of the real old original Englishman, I think that we might do him the justice to suppose that, even if our Roman, Dane, Saxon, and Norman had all been kind enough to have remained at home, the pure-bred islander might still have cut a figure in the world not altogether obscure or insignificant.

Holding very strong convictions as to the unmitigated rascality with which the white man almost always meets the aboriginal, I looked forward with no slight interest to an opportunity for personal observation of the New Zealander, perhaps the most interesting aboriginal in the world. And I must say that, if anything were required to confirm the impressions I have alluded to, it would be supplied by the marked contrast in the treatment vouchsafed to the helpless and naturally unoffending black of Australia.

by the settlers and Governments of the various colonies, and that of the far more intelligent and formidable savage with which the modern Englishman has had to deal in an island so nearly adjacent to our coasts. Look fairly on the two pictures, and say whether the terms of contempt and indignation that I have used, as to the deliberate scoundrelism of our race in this respect, are not justly merited.

Almost before you have set foot upon the shores of New Zealand you perceive indications of the fact, that in reality the Government stands in deadly awe of the spirited and athletic Maori. And you observe throughout the whole system how the same tyrant that can be seduced by the helplessness of a race into an utter denial of all claims, and ignoring of all dictates of justice or fair-dealing, can be scared by the defiant attitude of a bolder people, not only into a frank recognition of rights elsewhere withheld, but into a most unwonted deference of demeanour,—frequently into most humiliating concessions. Can anything be more truly despicable than this? Ought not the conduct of a great nation towards its uncivilised subjects to be characterised by a reasonable approach to *uniformity*? According to all the dictates of national magnanimity, ought not any difference of treatment to be rather in favour of the weaker than the more powerful of those with whom we are thrown in contact? Or ought a country, whose power rests so greatly upon *prestige*, as does that of Great Britain, to condescend to adopt the Noah Claypole line of business, and rob the children in the streets, while

flinching from the dangers and responsibilities consequent upon the perpetration of villainies of a bolder type ?

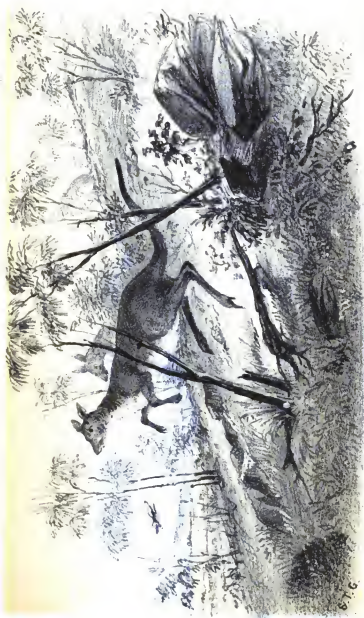
As a proof that the British, both Imperial and colonial, entertain no little fear of the Maori, I may mention, that although the whole number now surviving is only estimated at about 60,000, they are paid the compliment of commanding the undivided attention of two entire regiments of soldiers. One of these is usually quartered at Auckland, and the other at Wellington; but they are held in constant readiness to be forwarded into any neighbourhood where the native attitude may become so far threatening as to appear to require a demonstration. Now, as, whenever actual collision has taken place, military matters in New Zealand have been no better managed than they were in the Crimea, the whole of this expense is rendered to a great extent nugatory. The Maori amuses himself with watching the parades or the marchings of the soldiers through the town, and he listens with pleasure equal to our own to the strains of the military bands, but in his heart he utterly despises the soldier. He does not approve of his style of fighting. He says that he is a fool who stands up in a row to be shot at. And he throws it incessantly in our teeth, that almost the only great victory ever gained over them was the capture of a pah, by sneaking into it on a Sunday morning when the Maories had all left it to go to the native church outside, a devout resort to which, on the Sabbath-day, our own good men had taught them should supersede

all other considerations. The Maori acknowledges that we are superior to him in many things, but as a fighting man he considers himself our equal. He is so far impressed with a conviction of the superior resources of our Government, that he knows England can find soldiers so much more readily than he can find fighting men, that in a man-to-man struggle the Maori must eventually go to the wall ; but in a comparison of individual bravery or skill in battle they acknowledge no inferiority, and defer to the white man from other causes than fear. They hold in great respect the fighting capacity of the volunteer and of the jack-tar, as compared with that of the soldier ; both the sailor and the armed colonist more nearly adopting their own style of fighting, and not being fools enough to stand in a row to be shot.

Apart from the deference to the Maories implied in the large physical force retained for the purpose of controlling them, every acre of land acquired by the British is bought and paid for, *instead of being deliberately stolen, as is the case with you*. Each tract is made the subject of a special treaty ; the claims, however remote, of each several native are hunted up and provided for, and a regular deed is prepared, signed, and witnessed, as formally as if involving a transaction between one white and another. The prices often given are very high indeed ; for the New Zealander is singularly tenacious on the subject of land, and so astute and keen-witted is he, that he readily enough appreciates the peculiar features which constitute attractiveness in the land of which the "pakeha"

seeks to get possession. I was informed by the Provincial Secretary of the Auckland Province, that sometimes as high a price as half-a-crown an acre had been paid to the aboriginal possessor—of course for very choice sites.

But in what an invidious light does this fact place the scandalous dishonesty of the mode by which the Australian black has been dispossessed of the land upon which he was born and bred! The New Zealander does not only sell such portions as have been directly dedicated to his use by actual cultivation: he sells *all*, and the Government, by paying a price for land unapplied to any useful purpose, recognises the claim of the Maori as amounting sufficiently to "possession" to require purchase. The claim of the New Zealander is, however, not only not stronger than that of the Australian black, but it is not so strong. The portion of the soil which he beneficially occupies is insignificant as compared with that which he converts to no use whatever. Over the remainder he does not even avail himself of the right of the hunter; for the very sufficient reason, that he has nothing to hunt. The only indigenous quadruped in New Zealand is a small rat; and, as the Australian native is an active huntsman over every acre of his territory, and the New Zealander applies an enormous proportion of his land to no useful purpose whatever, the claim to compensation upon dispossession of the former over the latter appears plain enough. In simple truth, we pay the Maori large sums for his land because he is an acute and powerful savage; *we*



London, E. C.

FLYING DOE.

Peter & Gaijin.

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swindle the Australian out of his birthright because he is simple and helpless; and if this be not national Noah-Claypoleism, I do not know what is. Pray remove this deep national disgrace from your shoulders if you can, and do not, for the sake of a few thousands a year, be contented to rest under the stigma which at present most unquestionably attaches to you, of behaving towards the people you are consigning to extinction, like tyrants, cheats, and cowards.

In nothing is more strongly shewn the deferential tone adopted towards the Maori, as compared with the superciliousness of our treatment of the Australian black, than in the pains taken to learn his language, and communicate with him upon his own terms. They are a people singularly gifted with a sort of argumentative common sense, and innumerable stories are current respecting them, to show their native sagacity, and the sort of natural logic with which they endeavour to cope with the sophistries of their invaders. As to verbal intercommunication, they hold that we, having come to their country, are bound, if we wish to speak to them, to instruct ourselves in their language; and very few of them know much English, or will use it if they do know it. As a very fine young fellow, smartly dressed, and quite coming up to the average of Spaniards or Portuguese, said to a fellow-passenger of mine at Poverty Bay, when asked if he could speak English: "He could not. It seemed to go into his ear, but he could not get it to come out of his mouth." This, accompanied with appropriate gesture, struck me as a pretty good illus-

tration of the difficulties of the tyro in a new language. When that contemptible imposture, the so-called "Protectorate," was still in existence in Port Phillip, the ridiculous attempts at interpretation ventured upon, even by those most bound to prepare themselves, excited universal disgust. Instead of the "Plenty you kill 'im whitefellow picaninni" gibberish to which we were then accustomed, numerous gentlemen here, the entire staff of Native Commissioners, and most of the older settlers, speak the native language with perfect fluency. It has been reduced to a regular written system; books are printed in it; the Bible in Maori is circulated extensively, and a *Maori Messenger*, half in English, half in the native tongue, is published monthly, and looked for with a good deal of interest throughout the entire colony.

So excessively deferential does the white man become when his savage is sufficiently fierce, intelligent, and self-asserting, that even proper names are translated so as to be convenient to the native tongue, although somewhat puzzling to the countrymen of the original possessors. In the principal church at Auckland a tablet is erected to the memory of Governor Hobson, who died there. As a very suggestive compliment to the Maori, the English inscription upon this slab is translated afterwards into the native tongue, text from the bible and all; and, as consonants are not very redundant in the Maori language, poor Governor William Hobson is converted for their benefit into "Kawana Wiremu Hobioni." Nay, even majesty does not escape, and in inspecting a deed

conveying to the Government a large tract of land upon the eastern coast, I was much amused to detect our gracious Sovereign herself lurking under the incognita of an *alias*, as "Wikitoria, le Kuini o Ingerani," being, I presume, Maori for "Victoria, the Queen of England."

In speaking of the deferential tone adopted towards the Maori, I must not be understood, excessive as this deference may be in some respects, to speak of it in anything like terms of censure. I quote it mainly as a contrast to our cavalier treatment of other races—the Australian black in particular—and to shew the meanness to which even a great and generous people will sometimes stoop in taking advantage of the weak, while they almost truckle to the strong.

As, in dealing with the Maori, I find myself upon a fertile subject, I will reserve a sketch of some of his leading peculiarities for my next communication, meantime repeating the fact that he is a fine fellow, and often appears in most favourable contrast with his white brother.

In visiting Auckland it was my intention to have struck through the heart of the northern island, and after inspecting the very interesting districts of the hot springs, to have made my way down one of the principal rivers to Wellington, at the other end of the island. But I found this a more formidable undertaking than I calculated upon. There are few facilities of communication through the interior; the frequent

occurrence of creeks, rivers, and swamps renders progress on horseback impossible; the climate necessitates the carrying a tent, and you have to depend almost entirely upon the co-operation of the Maories to get on at all. As few of them speak our language, and as, on the best-known routes, contact with the whites has developed a good deal of the natural covetousness of the race, it is at once a disagreeable, slow, laborious, and rather expensive undertaking to venture across the country, particularly alone. Except when getting up or down a river in a native canoe, you have to perform almost the entire journey on foot, and to subsist mainly on the omnipresent potato; and to this sort of life you have to reconcile yourself for a month, or perhaps six weeks, the time being dependent upon the zeal and moderation, or indolence and spirit of extortion, of the natives. I attempted to inveigle a very intelligent scientific gentleman, with whom I had the pleasure of sailing from Sydney, into accompanying me on this expedition; but as neither his leisure nor his state of health admitted of his entertaining my proposition, and as no other eligible companion presented himself, I had to arrange other schemes for seeing something more of New Zealand and its inhabitants.

After some delay, I took my passage in a little schooner of 40 tons for Napier, in the district of Ahuriri, on the eastern coast, about 400 miles to the south of Auckland. You will easily imagine that this was not a very pleasant undertaking on a coast so liable to stormy weather as that of New Zealand; but

I had no alternative. There is very little traffic between the several provinces, and Wellington is often a month without news from its more northern sister. Little as I relished the prospect of coasting this distance in a vessel of such insignificant proportions, whose cabin was little better than a cupboard, the only light and air for which were supplied through a small hatchway, the reality proved much worse than the anticipation. The little cockboat could not sail a bit, and, when it came to anything like beating against an unfavourable wind, her efforts were simply ridiculous. Her lee-way often actually exceeded her progress forward, and once or twice on a lee-shore, and with uncertain weather, we were in real danger. To do our skipper justice, however, he seemed thoroughly to distrust the sailing powers of his man-of-war; and in case of the weather looking threatening, he stood upon no ceremony whatever in putting his ship about and scudding for some one of the numerous ports of shelter with which the eastern coast of New Zealand is amply supplied. But the loss of time was terrible. For twelve mortal days was I condemned to drag out existence within the narrow bounds of this little cockle-shell; and although I bore the infliction as a philosopher should, I was never much better pleased in my life than when I found the little schooner sailing into the harbour of Napier.

Tedious as this trip was, the course close down along the coast, and the constant running for shelter, afforded me many opportunities of observing the habits of the natives and their progress in agricultural pursuits;

and the district of Ahuriri was also very interesting for the same reasons, inasmuch as it has only comparatively recently been occupied by Europeans, and the Maories are found there in very large numbers, and retaining much of their original character.

Within eight or ten miles of the township, which is of the most primitive character, and contains only 200 or 300 inhabitants, there are situate the paha of two rather powerful chiefs, at that time in a state of actual warfare with one another. One of these, Moana-Nui, is the head of a very numerous tribe, and has some of the characteristics of an influential man; at the same time he is a frequent drunkard, a brawling quarrelsome bully, and neither respected nor popular with his people. He had lately given the other, Te Hapuka, notice to quit a large tract of land which had long been occupied by him; and the effort to give effect to this notice had led to several sanguinary collisions, in which men had fallen on both sides, but the principal loss had been on the side of poor Hapuka. This old gentleman seemed to be possessed of many estimable qualities; he had long been waging a hopeless warfare against overwhelming numbers, and had exhibited a dogged courage and patient endurance throughout, which would have adorned a far more celebrated general.

As the white man steps in as general peacemaker and mutual friend, he meets both parties of belligerents upon an amicable footing, however virulent may be their wars; and I was delighted to find that after every battle an English doctor was sent by the

Government to attend the wounded on both sides, treating each alike, and only trying to save life and mitigate suffering, without reference to the tribe or kindred of the patient.

Accompanied by one of the Native Commissioners, I cantered across to both pahs, or rather to all three, as a new war-pah had been erected by Moana-Nui to cover a grove of valuable timber, which constituted a principal portion of the *casus belli*. A pah is at all times a curious place, but particularly so when a virulent war drives the natives from their cultivation to take refuge in their fortress, crowding it up, and keeping everybody in it quite on the *qui vive*. Those that I visited covered an area of five or six acres each, over which the huts and store-rooms of the occupants were clustered pretty closely, and the whole interior swarmed with men, women, and children, dogs and pigs. They are fenced in with a double palisading of eight or ten feet high, strongly lashed with the native flax, and supported at intervals of three or four yards with long posts, consisting of stems of trees of a foot in diameter, the tops of which are usually ornamented with some grotesque carving, often of rather indecent character. The palisading is amply supplied with loopholes for musketry; and if the pah be strongly fortified, trenches are sunk round the interior of the palisading, in which the besieged can stand in perfect security, while able to pick off with the utmost ease any one who approaches. It was by these means that Heki inflicted such woeful loss upon the British troops under that old fool Despard; and I heard it said in

New Zealand that upon that occasion a hundred soldiers were shot down within the first five minutes of the attack.

I found the occupants of Te Hapuka's pah in great commotion, and expecting an attack every hour, although some negotiation had been entered into, by which he had consented to give up the contest and retire. The raised scaffolding which serves as a lookout swarmed with his warriors, who assured us that they saw hostile natives creeping amongst the fern; they also stated that people had been prowling round the pah all the previous night, and that a party of their men, who had gone up the river for provisions, had been chased home, and had had a narrow escape. The brave old chief was busy strengthening his fortifications, stripped to the shirt, and looking very hot and dirty. Scouts were posted on each side, and everything looked warlike and thoroughly on the alert:

But here a most striking illustration of the condition of the New Zealander presented itself. It was evening, and the sun was gradually sinking, when a bell began to ring, and immediately tools were dropped, work ceased with every one but old Hapuka himself and half-a-dozen of his principal men, and out walked man, woman, and child of the whole tribe with a slow and reverent step to church, in a little building situated outside the pah. It was not Sunday, remember; it was but an ordinary working day; yet such is the influence established over the native by the missionaries and the never-sufficiently-to-be-

praised Bishop Selwyn, that morning and evening this devout proceeding is repeated with a gravity and apparent sincerity which would sadly shame many of your more pretentious Christians.

We waited outside the church till we heard them groan out the Hundredth Psalm in most inharmonious strains, when their native reader began a chapter of the Bible in the Maori tongue; and we turned our horses' heads towards the hostile pah, on the borders of the disputed forest. Here, too, we found the whole population at prayers. And it struck me that whilst the bishop and the missionaries were able to have infused so much of the religious element into the native as to bring him daily to church in a manner unprecedented amongst their own people, it was singular that they could not convince them of the wickedness of their civil wars, and secure the practical carrying out of the great law to which they defer in theory,—“Thou shalt do no murder.” But, in fact, the so-called Christianity of these people is mainly superficial, and deeply tinged with simple superstition. They have always been highly imaginative and fanciful in their mythology, and in a partial substitution of Christianity for the ridiculous idolatries in which they were till lately sunk, they have imported into their new religion much of the absurdities which disfigured their old one. They attend church because they think that the Almighty will be angry with them and punish them if they do not; but when it comes to a distinct restraint of their more savage passions, they cannot make the sacrifice,

and are contented quietly to lay their religion on the shelf.

As a consequence of the awe felt by the Government of the Maori, these wars are tolerated without any interference on the part of the authorities. This, of course, involves some remarkable anomalies. The Maories are recognised as British subjects, and held to be amenable to the laws, and yet allowed to murder one another in the most horrible manner. Only when their quarrels seem likely to embroil the whites does the Government step in. Energetic remonstrances are indeed made, and the moral influence of the good Bishop, and of a very zealous and efficient staff of Native Commissioners, is brought to bear to bring about an amicable settlement of their differences; but the feuds are not interfered with by anything like physical force, and the Government seems usually greatly inclined to preserve a perfectly neutral position.

The New Zealander adopts the bush style of fighting, hiding amongst the fern and behind trees, and digging rifle-pits around his paha. They thus often spend whole days over a battle without any very sanguinary results. A more than ordinarily brave or incautious man is occasionally picked off; and if the paha can be "rushed," or its defenders become so weak numerically as not to be able to defend it properly, the slaughter is frightful. With many good qualities, the Maori is an utter savage when his blood is up and actual fighting is going on, and the narratives of his atrocities are innumerable and horrifying in the ex-

treme. One old chief near Auckland is known to have killed, in times long past, 600 people with his own hand; and as this could never have taken place in fair fighting, it means that scores of prisoners must have been led up to him to be slaughtered one after another, like sheep at the shambles.

Yet, with all this savageness, a most amusing strain of chivalrous feeling runs through their warlike etiquette. They generally give fair notice of their intention to fight a day or two beforehand. And in this very campaign, a great loss having one day been inflicted upon Hapuka, in the death of several of his men, and of one friendly chief of high character and importance, word was sent that Moana-Nui intended to follow up his advantage the next day, when the son of the fallen chief intimated that he intended to devote a day or two to the funeral obsequies of his parent, and would prefer the postponement of the fight, and it was cheerfully postponed accordingly.

The worst form of the Maori savagery—cannibalism—has long been at an end, the last case known having occurred in 1842, in the Bay of Plenty, but the particulars still current amongst the colonists are of a most horrible character. One of the most touching cases I heard of was that of an old chief, Rauparaha, who wished to give a visitor a treat, and made one of his slave-girls dig an oven, collect fire-wood, light the fire, and arrange the large stones, the heat generated in which by the fire causes the cooking of the food, and then bow down her head between her knees to receive the pistol-shot which constituted herself the

food for which she had provided the means of preparation, with a thorough foreknowledge of her fate.

All this has passed away for ever. The traveller now proceeds through New Zealand as safely as through any country in the world. The natives, so far from being likely to molest him, act rather as a police to protect him from harm. Murder, highway robbery, and kindred crimes are almost unheard of; and "sticking up," which, under the benignant influence of your Government, has been elevated to the dignity of an "institution" in Australia, is a phrase literally unknown amongst the people surrounded by the so-called savages of the adjacent islands.

The great security of the white colonist throughout New Zealand exists in the fact that public opinion amongst the Maories has declared in favour not only of his toleration, but of every inducement being held out to him to come into the country.

You will perhaps laugh at the idea of "public opinion" amongst a race of half-reclaimed cannibals; yet, amongst this very intelligent and observant people, public opinion is most distinctly developed and very perceptibly expressed. The Maori is no particular lover of the white man *per se*, and he believes that the star of the one race is doomed to set before the rising sun of the other. But he knows that where the white man comes he brings with him the knowledge of many desirable things, and the means of availing himself of that knowledge; and it is for his

guns and axes, and grain and fruits and clothes, that he invites the white man frankly to his country, and denounces as a barbarous savage the man of his own race who does anything to deter so valuable a visitor from coming amongst them. This public opinion having been very emphatically pronounced, even the most unruly of the race is kept to a great extent in check, and prevented from indulging any latent inclination towards aggression or annoyance. The up-country settler, surrounded by Maories, and quite isolated from his own countrymen, is still safe, and pursues his avocations with an easy mind.

Of course, some little interruptions in amicable relationships will occur, but are all greatly controlled by the predominant influence I have alluded to. In a little port at which I touched on my way down the coast a man resided who got a living by acting as the merchant of the neighbourhood, purchasing native produce, and shipping it to the principal towns. A whaler touching for supplies just before I was there, this man went on board, and, according to the Maories, warned the captain that he was paying too high prices for his provisions. A day or two after the departure of the whaler, the house of this man was beset by a crowd of fifty or sixty excited natives, who threatened him with all sorts of penalties, turned him and his family out of doors, and cleared his house of every particle that it contained; but, having kept him in this state for a day or two, they put everything back again, and announced to him that they intended the warning simply as a demonstration, and that, if he

dealt fairly with them in the future, he would receive no further annoyance.

The sort of public opinion to which I have alluded is greatly developed by the peculiar *penchant* of the native for discussion. He is one of the greatest debaters in the world. Nothing can be done without a "korero," or talk; and these koreros are often of the most earnest and protracted character. The Maori likes to have every point of a subject thoroughly examined and discussed, and, having come to a conclusion, he never likes to have that decision interfered with; he looks upon the topic being raked up again as puerile and vacillating, and, having fairly debated any matter, wishes that it should be considered finally settled.

They have admirable powers of debate, being frequently very fluent, and possessing much oratorical force, and generally that great first necessary to oratory, earnestness. I had the satisfaction of witnessing a korero, at which Te Poihipi, a very influential chief from the interior, was welcomed by some of the chiefs upon the coast. The Maori laughs at the habit of our orators of remaining stationary while they are speaking; he requires more scope, and likes ample room for the excitement generated in the process of speech-making: thus he walks rapidly up and down a space of twenty or thirty feet, speaking with the utmost volubility as he advances, and remaining silent, thinking of his next sentence, as he retires. If the spirit be very strong, he perhaps speaks as he moves both ways; but it does not seem to be expected

of him, and I dare say the pauses enable him to do greater justice to the short sentences blurted rapidly out as he walks, trots, or sometimes dances, up the little lane devoted to his oratorical purposes. At short intervals, during the speech of a native, it is interlarded by the chanting of some little song well known amongst them, and supposed to bear upon the subject under discussion; and a very ridiculous effect is produced by finding a man stop in the middle of an impassioned address to grind off, in a monotonous sing-song, a few verses of some popular ballad. Fancy your Mr. Michie or Mr. O'Shanassy arresting himself in the midst of one of his most stirring orations, and favouring the House with half-a-dozen verses of "Chevy Chase" or "John Gilpin," chanted slowly, and to the air of "Lucy Neal"!

The character of the New Zealander, while still uncontaminated by contact with Europeans, possesses many interesting features. Combined with much natural intelligence, there is a kind of single-minded ingenuousness which is very winning; and innumerable anecdotes are related illustrative of their original fidelity, warmth of attachment, truthfulness, and honesty. In the connections formed between the earlier colonists and the native women, almost invariable testimony is borne to their constancy, earnestness, and self-devotion. I heard of a case of a connection of this kind, after having lasted many years, being found inconvenient, as the spread of European colonisation had a tendency to render cohabitation without marriage a scandal to the neighbourhood. The

settler intimated to the Maori that the time was come when she must leave him. The poor creature did not challenge his right to put her away, but she had become too deeply attached to him to survive the separation. She retired to a deserted hut, and deliberately set to work to starve herself to death. She was found, after several days, without having tasted either food or water; and the settler, finding his measures of divorce amounted to nothing short of a sentence of death, was sufficiently shocked to revoke his decision and restore her to the home she had so long been allowed to occupy. This is no isolated case, but simply an apt illustration of the faithful and attached spirit characteristic of this interesting people.

A gentleman with whom I travelled had hired four natives to carry the luggage of himself and friend round the regions of the hot springs. They were men just casually picked up along the coast. They travelled together for three weeks, and, not understanding each other's language, could hold no communication much more intimate than that of the master and the beast of burden. And yet, even in this short interval, so attached had the poor fellows become, that at parting from him they could not refrain from shedding tears. Strange, that so affectionate a disposition should be found lurking in breasts but yesterday apt to be animated by the passions of an unmitigated cannibalism!

A worthy settler related a circumstance which had lately happened to himself, which will shew the high



Illustration by G. S. S.

London, E.C.

KANGAROO HUNTING.

sense of honour often found amongst the Maories in their uncontaminated condition. An old native was calling at his station just previous to last Christmas, and in the course of his visit lamented his having no sugar to entertain his friends at that festive period. The settler told him that he had had dealings with him before, which had been satisfactory, and that he would trust him with a bag of sugar to entertain his friends, and that he might pay him at harvest-time. The old fellow was so overjoyed at this, that when the bag of sugar was brought out he walked round it, studying the beauty of its appearance from different points of view, as Mr. Pecksniff studied Salisbury Cathedral. But in the midst of his exultation his countenance fell; he looked very sorrowful, and, in his own language, said to the settler, "I cannot take your sugar: my tribe is now engaged in a war with Moana-Nui, in which we may any day all be killed, and then my harvests would never be got in, and you would never be paid." It was only when the settler said that if such a catastrophe happened, he would go down with his men and reap the wheat himself, that this very scrupulous and single-minded old gentleman could be induced to shoulder the bag of sugar, for which he had so ardently longed, and go on his way rejoicing in the idea that he was provided with the means of affording entertainment to his friends.

As the Maori is thrown into contact with the white man, and subjected to that sort of bullock-driver civilisation which British colonisation usually repre-

sents to the aborigine, he is apt sadly to deteriorate: the freshness of his character goes off; he probably begins to drink to a greater or less extent, and becomes artful, greedy, and deceitful. I scarcely ever saw a drunken Maori, and in some districts I believe they still resist the inroad of this baneful influence; but even the worthy bishop himself is obliged to confess that his *protégées* are deteriorating in this respect.

They seem to have a pretty full appreciation of the value of property. Some of them keep accounts at the banks, many at the savings bank; many own vessels of some size and pretensions, and they are rapidly becoming rather energetic breeders of horses. They have hitherto shewn no desire for sheep or cattle, but, in the districts in which agriculture is making the most progress, are beginning to get tired of the spade and hoe, and to experiment with the plough.

Physically, the Maori is a fine fellow. Generally well grown, and with his muscular system fully developed, he is capable of great labour, and, if not too hardly pressed, does not shew much disposition to shrink from it. When well dressed and clean, he looks more like a Spaniard or Italian than a savage, and occasionally you see very handsome men indeed. They differ much in appearance, which has led to the belief that they consist of more than one race; they differ in colour, from almost black to so delicate an olive, as to be much fairer than many of our own countrymen; their hair is sometimes quite straight,

sometimes very curly, and sometimes as thoroughly woolly as that of any negro. Their features equally differ, sometimes presenting the type of the absolutely coarse-bred savage, sometimes exhibiting much greater delicacy, with aquiline nose, and lips no thicker than those of an ordinary Englishman. Some of them, in the words of a recent author, present a physiognomy "startlingly Jewish" in its profile, so as to lead to some rather curious disquisitions as to their primal origin. They have distinct traditions of their arrival in New Zealand about 500 years ago; they came from Hawaii, with a deliberate intention to settle where they are now. They know the names of those who came, of the points at which they first landed, and of the very canoes in which the enterprising immigration was effected. They say that they found the islands already inhabited, but that in process of time the original inhabitants gave way before them; that many of them were killed, and the rest made slaves, or otherwise became amalgamated with themselves.

The older natives are mostly disfigured with the tattoo to the most elaborate extent, so much so that at a little distance the face looks as if covered with a dark blue mask; but on a very near inspection, the workmanship is so perfect, and the general effect so artistic, that one almost becomes reconciled to the process. With such beautiful accuracy are the lines, circles, and angles drawn, that I found myself often guilty of rudeness in the attentive examination to which I felt inclined to subject any individuals with

whom I happened to be thrown into contact; and I confess that, after having become accustomed to the tattoo, some faces struck me as appearing rather insipid from the want of it.

The profuse tattooing of the face is reserved for the men, the women having only the under lip turned completely blue, with a few streaks down and across the chin. This is, of course, very ugly indeed; but they look upon red lips as a great piece of vulgarity, and a sad drawback in personal appearance. The younger natives of both sexes are beginning to eschew the tattoo altogether, and I have no doubt that in the next generation it will be completely done away with.

Considering the many good and improvable qualities of the Maori, and the force of character he exhibits, the question assumes great importance, of how far he is likely to be amenable to the destructive influences too often the result of contact with a superior race; how far he is likely to be doomed to follow in the melancholy track of those too promptly annihilated by the onward march of the aggressive Anglo-Saxon. I fear that the prospect is not a very hopeful one. There seems a sufficiency of vital energy in the New Zealander to enable him to survive the dangerous contiguity of the superior race; but other causes are tending towards his extermination, and he is himself impressed with the conviction that his race is passing away. It is a constant remark, in his negotiations with the whites for the purchase of land,—“Why be in such a hurry for the land? If you wait,

we shall all be gone, and the land will be at your service for nothing." There is no doubt that their numbers are rapidly diminishing. Districts once numbering thousands of inhabitants now only muster hundreds; and whole tribes, once numerous and powerful, have either been swept away altogether or reduced to comparative insignificance. Their diminution, apart from the numbers slain in their protracted and often ferocious wars, is traceable, amongst other things, to diseases consequent upon their own folly or ignorance of natural laws. In their infatuated love for discussion, they box themselves up in their close, weather-tight huts, talking over land, religion, &c., till late hours at night, by which time they have arrived at such a condition of steamy heat as to be altogether intolerable, and they then relieve themselves by throwing off their clothes and sitting to cool in the night air. Thus are the seeds of consumption sown, and a very large proportion of the natives have a hectic cough. Besides this, very many shew indications of scrofula prevailing amongst them. I have heard this attributed to their frequently injudicious diet, particularly the enormously fat eels that constitute almost the only fish of their fresh waters. The number of children born is very small, as compared with a white population, and quite insufficient to compensate for the great number of deaths amongst them. It would be a sad pity if so fine a race were to pass altogether away; and some very good suggestions have been made to avert the natural consequences of their present ignorance and mismanage-

ment, and to arrest, if possible, the rapid diminution of their numbers, which is at present unquestionably going on.

I have been tempted to linger so long amongst my friends the Maories, that I have not left myself much scope for further description of New Zealand, without risk of protracting my communications to such a length as would be likely to be wearisome.

With respect to this country as a field of British colonisation, the question will naturally present itself, how far and how fast it is likely to progress? My impression is that the colony is progressing in a right direction, but that the process is a slow one, as compared with that of most of the other colonies in these seas. The introduction and increase of stock is going on with some rapidity; and as the native ferns and inferior herbage are superseded by the richer grasses of England, which have evinced such a singular adaptability to the soil and climate, the quantity of stock which the two islands will carry will be very large in proportion to their area, as tested by any Australian experiences. Already the vast plains of the southern island are becoming stocked with the sheep and cattle of the squatters, and most of the available districts of the northern island are being taken up as fast as arrangements can be made with their aboriginal owners.

The squatting system seems kept under very judi-

cious control in all the several provinces. I do not approve of their land systems, for many reasons; but in reference to squatting, they certainly seem to have profited by the mischievous results of Australian mismanagement in that respect, and to have guarded themselves from any probability of a repetition of the evil. Facilities for squatting are afforded in all the provinces quite sufficient to induce men to enter upon that pursuit, and to devote their best energies to its prosecution; but the land is kept absolutely free for colonisation of a more advanced description, and as fast as it is recovered from the natives it is thrown open frankly and plentifully to the colonist. In the southern island (or, as it is usually most absurdly called, the "middle island," on account of a third little island existing still further to the south) there are so few natives that the Maori title has been entirely extinguished, and the whole land is at the disposal of the Government.

I had not an opportunity of visiting Canterbury or Otago, but the reports from those settlements were of a very favourable character, particularly as far as squatting is concerned. And it may afford a puzzle to your Convention agitators, who look upon national prosperity and ultra accessibility of land as convertible terms, to account for the fact that the Canterbury settlement is at present the most prosperous and progressive of all the New Zealand provinces, while the price of land is there two pounds an acre; and amongst all the other settlements there is a sort of race as to which can offer land at the lowest price,

and afford the greatest facilities to the purchaser. Perhaps a glance at New Zealand, and at past experiences at Swan River and elsewhere, might convince any candid inquirer into the land policy of new countries of the fact that it is quite possible to make land *too accessible* altogether—that if every man becomes a landowner, there are apt to be no workmen—that universal land-owning is quite fatal to any reasonable approach to a beneficial subdivision of labour, without which no progress is made. When a man can get no more grain put in or reaped than he is able to do with his own hands, he is very apt to find out that “agriculture does not pay,” and that his landed property, like the elephant of the Eastern merchant, is a very inconvenient possession. With very strong impressions of the expediency of a thoroughly sufficient accessibility of the land, I am still inclined to fancy that the further we get from the original Wakefield theory, the further we go from a good system; and that the future prosperity of the Australian colonies may be greatly compromised by the off-hand substitution of the schemes of mere visionaries, for the practical results attained by many varied and closely-studied systems which have been elaborated within the Australian colonies themselves.

As to the exclusively natural productions of New Zealand, much might be written. Its flax is a very interesting article—used in all possible ways direct from the leaf by the natives, but surrounded with difficulties in rendering it extensively useful by any mechanical process that has as yet been discovered.

I visited the establishments of Mr. Whytlaw and the Baron de Thierry, who have done the most to develop this great natural resource of New Zealand; and they both speak hopefully of being able through this article to add largely to the exports of New Zealand. The manipulation of the flax is still beset with difficulties, however, and we can only hope that the enterprise, perseverance, and ingenuity of these gentlemen may meet some day with their appropriate reward.

As you pass through the country districts of New Zealand, you are struck with the absence of animal life. As I have already stated, they have only one indigenous quadruped, and that is a rat. Their birds, both land and aquatic, are few as compared with those of Australia—their whole list of different kinds falling far short in number of those contained in a list recently published in *The Argus* as visiting the Melbourne Botanical Gardens alone. In the open country, you see nothing but the little bunting or lark, which runs along the ground with you. They have not even the almost omnipresent swallow. As you approach the forests and scrubs, indeed, you see and hear more birds—two kinds of parrots, several beautiful pigeons, and a very interesting bird called the “tui,” or parson-bird, from its sable complexion, and two singular white feathers below the throat. We are told by residents near the scrubs, that despite the apparent scarcity of birds, the early dawn in the timbered country is signalled by a perfect charivari of musical sounds; and I heard the notes of one or two birds

which led me to believe that they could sing beautifully if they chose.

Many interesting attempts have been made to introduce birds and other animals into a country so favourable to this kind of experiment as New Zealand, and, I am happy to say, not without success. The English pheasant, in particular, has been permanently established in the neighbourhood of Monganui, in the northern island, and is often caught in nooses by the Maories, and brought down alive for sale to Auckland. I made it my business to hunt out the gentleman who accomplished this feat—a Mr. Brodie, now resident in Auckland, and was much amused at his description of the process. He brought out both pheasants and partridges without difficulty from England, and placed them in an aviary at Monganui, with the intention of allowing them to breed, and turning them loose when they became numerous. He was some time after astonished at receiving from a Maori the dead body of a pheasant, just rescued from a hawk, which had torn off its head. He had never missed any from his aviary; no other pheasants had then been introduced; and yet ever since pheasants have been brought in alive and dead by the natives, and they now abound in that neighbourhood by thousands. With his partridges he was not equally successful; one after another they came to some untimely end, and he lost them all. I hear, however, that they have been successfully introduced into the Canterbury settlement, and that fine coveys are often flushed in the corn-fields around Christchurch.

New Zealand is haunted by the blow-fly, corresponding with its most disgusting Australian brother. The house-fly appears only recently to have been imported, and is even now but slowly making its way to the interior. The mosquito and the sand-fly are apt to be very troublesome. The ant is little known. While dealing with insects, I cannot help alluding to that most wonderful thing the vegetable caterpillar, which is found in profusion throughout the island. This creature, about the size of a little finger, feeds upon the leaves of the rata, a gigantic parasite, itself of very interesting characteristics. At a particular stage of its growth, the caterpillar drops from the tree, burrows a few inches in the earth, when—*mirabile dictu*—it seems suddenly to change its nature, and become a vegetable, for from the nape of its neck up sprouts a shoot of six or eight inches long, rising above the surface something in appearance like the tail of a rat. There is no doubt of this, for I have several of them in my possession. The body of the insect, still quite perfect, assumes, shoot and all, a sort of ligneous character, and seems, if kept dry, to be reasonably indestructible.

The indigenous vegetable productions of New Zealand are varied and interesting. Her timber trees are specially deserving of attention. Amongst them the noble “kauri” towers, pre-eminent in size as in usefulness. Large forests of this splendid tree still grow a few miles to the north and west of Auckland, and are actively culled both for ship spars and for general purposes. It sheds a gum, or rather resin, in

profusion, which is greatly sought after for exportation, and is used for varnishes, &c. ; and it is remarkable that the Maories dig up this gum in enormous masses all over very extensive ranges now not only without a tree, but without the smallest vestige of any tree having ever grown there.

According to my somewhat limited opportunities of observation, it seemed that the timber of New Zealand was very unequally and capriciously distributed. Over scores of miles you have no trees at all, but when you come to them they grow so densely that you cannot make your way amongst them.

The scrubs are singularly impenetrable. Not only do the trees grow very closely together, but they are overgrown with all kinds of luxuriant parasites, and are knitted together with a troublesome thing called the supple-jack, which entirely precludes access to the recesses of the forest. This curious creeper, about the thickness of a schoolmaster's cane, runs about from tree to tree at all angles and all heights, hanging in festoons, so as to catch the face, the body, and the foot at every step, and utterly defying all attempts at disentanglement. The tree-fern, here called "fern-palm," which M. Guerard has done so much to immortalise with you, abounds in all the scrubs, not requiring to wait as with you, for the beds of gullies—this far more humid climate affording ample moisture at all seasons for this elegant daughter of the forest. Beautiful as it is, its loveliness is even exceeded by a kindred plant which grows in similar localities. I speak of the tree called the "nikau" by the natives,

which is one of the most beautiful plants I ever saw. Its leaves are more subdivided than those of the fern-palm, giving a character of greater softness, and even greater luxuriance, to its foliage. The heart of the top of the stem is tender and well-flavoured, greatly resembling the filbert; and it is eaten both raw and roasted by the natives.

I should do injustice to New Zealand if I omitted to mention its gold-fields. These are, I believe, two. One at Coromandel, on the shores of the gulf upon which Auckland is situated, and one at Aorere, fifty or sixty miles from Nelson, in the southern island. Gold in noticeable quantities has been found at the former place, but not in sufficient quantities to lead to any energetic measures for further discoveries. But the gold-field near Nelson is one of unquestionable importance. I did not visit it, but I had the advantage of an elaborate description of it from a very intelligent gentleman connected with one of our banks, who had made a tour of careful inspection. This gentleman describes it as an undoubtedly available gold-field, but situated in a most inhospitable region. Since its discovery, upwards of 20,000 ounces have been exported, and large weights have fallen to the share of individual diggers. My informant met with one man who spoke of having got between 14 and 15 lbs. weight for his share. But the gold is obtained under circumstances of great difficulty and discomfort. The locality is inaccessible to either drays, or even pack-horses, and the principal discoveries have taken place in the very bed of the river, which is subject to

sudden, constant, and excessive floods, by which the labours of the diggers, with all their dams, and cradles, and tools, are apt to be swept away without a moment's notice. Add to this blustrous and severe weather, and extravagant prices for provisions, and you will easily see that gold gathering in New Zealand is no picking on a bed of roses.

Of the physical peculiarities of the colony, I have already spoken. The southern island contains a large proportion of level country; but the northern is one of the most broken and mountainous regions in the world—quite sufficiently so to prevent anything being done within any reasonable expectation, to open up the interior by railways. Their rivers and other natural advantages for facilitating carriage by water, place at their disposal the means of bringing much of their produce to market, and roads are being pushed on with reasonable rapidity, when the limited amount of the annual revenue is remembered; but many tracts of the interior are still virtually inaccessible for any useful purpose, and it will be a long time before it can be thrown open.

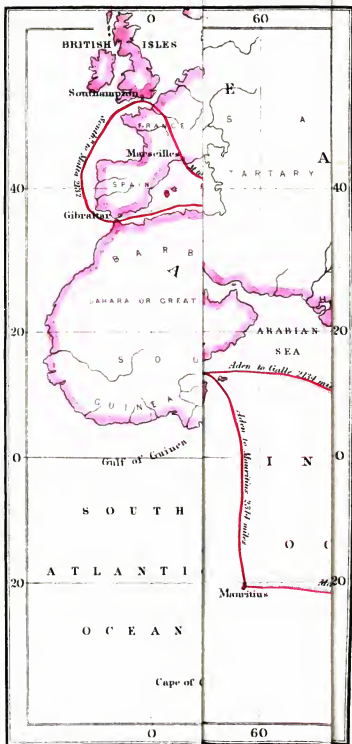
The climate of New Zealand has been so often described that I need say little about it. Although subject to very high winds and violent storms, it is on the whole genial and pleasant. The range of the thermometer throughout the year is, I believe, the very smallest in the world, not excepting that of Madeira. It is, therefore, a valuable country to the invalid, particularly those subject to diseases of the chest. The general appearance of the white population is highly

favourable to the character of the climate. The cheeks of the younger people are of so rosy a hue as to indicate consummate health, and the mature Anglo-Saxon seems liable to such a degree of *embonpoint* as to be rather mortifying to some of them. Moderate as are the fluctuations of temperature, I found some of the midsummer days in Auckland very unpleasantly hot—a fact which I attributed to the great humidity of the atmosphere, combined with the natural heat of the season. They have heavy rains at all periods of the year, and the gardens and fields preserve a green appearance unknown during the summer months with you. All English fruits and vegetables grow luxuriantly, and if the colonists are not well supplied with them, it can only be attributed to indolence. In the main street of Auckland I saw the English water-cress growing in the gutter with a vigour I never saw equalled; and this is but a type of what can be done in this highly-favoured climate.

Of the form of government established here I think tolerably well. But there are some curious anomalies about it, and it shows many signs of having emanated in too great a degree from the brain of the speculative theorist. The jumble of parliaments, and confusion of responsibilities between the general and local Governments, are leading to serious evils, and seem likely to become more aggravated rather than to make any progress towards reform. You will perceive the anomalous character of their institutions, to which I have alluded, when you hear, that though the Upper House of their General Legislature is nominated by

the Governor, the Superintendents of the several provinces (each the great man of his particular settlement, and wielding large executive authority) are elected directly by the people. The evils of this arrangement will readily enough present themselves to you, and they are discussed very energetically in all circles here. But this is one evil of a character that in a new country is very difficult to cure. The Superintendent, too much inclined to curry favour with the masses of the people, is not likely to be superseded by an officer appointed by any other authority. The people, accustomed to this direct action of the popular will, are not likely to consent to any diminution of their influence, through increased indirectness in its action.

Of the kindness and hospitality of the colonists I cannot speak too highly. Visiting the colony as a perfect stranger, I everywhere experienced the greatest civility and attention. The very first man who set his foot on board the ship that conveyed me to the shores invited me to take up my quarters at his house during my stay in the neighbourhood; and this was but a sample of the friendly spirit with which I was met throughout the colony, in whatever direction I travelled.



THE OVERLAND ROUTE.

FOR very many reasons immense interest attaches to the readiest means of communication between Australia and the mother country. As transit to and fro can be shortened, cheapened, made easy and agreeable, so will the golden bond of union which still connects the mother and the child strengthen and become more permanent and reliable—so will the juvenile vigour of the new nation, and the sturdy substantiality of the old one, kindly and healthfully act and re-act upon each other. We should look to important influences of this kind, and to the ultimate results of such influences, when dealing with our projects for facilitating intercommunication. No injury can well arise from a supply of means of intercourse too intimate. If we could fly backwards and forwards in a day, both England and Australia would be benefited by the facility.

Impressed with such convictions I started for England by the overland route, with the greatest curiosity as to everything that I should see. This is the nearest route between the two countries, and it has much connected with it calculated to add continually to its importance. If the golden bond alluded to be destined

to grow and strengthen, we must look to the development of its several links mainly along this line.

That the service has been badly managed is only too notorious throughout the Australian colonies. An inexperienced company, starting with an inefficient fleet, inadequate capital, and not superabundant conscientiousness, sent out an agent to the Antipodes with his hands tied. The first ship knowingly started with her machinery in an unsafe condition, broke down on her homeward voyage. The shackled agent did not dare to charter a substitute; he turned round the worn down vessels as they arrived in port from a voyage too long for any vessel, upon a second voyage of equal length; and the whole service sank into confusion, involving ruinous loss to the company, and irritation inconceivable to every one else. With wrecked prospects, lost capital, and disgusted shareholders, a temporary amalgamation was effected with another company, which amalgamation was annulled in general meeting. And, in the climax of this lamentable break-up, resulting in the virtual insolvency of the original company and the annihilation of the contract, a very large number of us entrusted ourselves to the tender mercies of those who were then working out the fallen fortunes of this most disastrous and altogether disgraceful undertaking. How we fared, the following narrative will show.

We set sail from Hobson's Bay in the middle of April, in the steamer *Victoria*, chartered by the company from the old Australian Mail Company, so well known for their melancholy failures in establishing steam communication round the Cape of Good Hope.

The *Victoria* was famed for having made the only good passage out of all that unhappy fleet. Since then she had been employed in the Crimea and other services, and had been no less celebrated throughout Australia on her second visit by being ludicrously beaten from Point de Galle by the little *City of Sydney*, under Captain Moodie. Her misfortunes were attributed to a foul bottom, and to the machinery being out of order, and all this we were assured had been entirely put to rights.

From Victoria to King George's Sound our progress was everything that could be wished—a fair wind, pleasant weather, smooth seas, and agreeable temperature, made everything appear *couleur de rose*, as far as the prospects of the voyage were concerned. We averaged ten and a half knots in actual progress, and as we had a current of about a knot an hour against us, a total of over eleven knots led us to fancy that the poor *Victoria* had not had justice done her in her contest with the saucy little *City of Sydney*, and that some portion of her old efficiency must still be lurking somewhere in her hull. We arrived at King George's Sound a day before our contract time, and boldly entered the harbour in the dark, although the entrance is narrow and rather intricate. A very slow-going old gentleman, who acts the part of pilot at this odd corner of Australia, rather wished to detain us until the morning, but by sending boats with a blue light each to the buoys, all real difficulties were overcome, and we were safely at anchor and ready to commence coaling by eight o'clock.

If King George's Sound, and Albany, its capital, were described as lively places, very wrong impressions would be conveyed. On the contrary, the Genius of Dullness seems to be rather in the ascendant. The people are not at all too energetic; and the axiom that it is better to wear out than to rust out, does not seem to have yet reached either Albany or its port. A few of the more active passengers went on shore, with the intention of securing beds, to avoid the nuisance of coaling on board the steamer, but no beds were attainable, and they returned on board. And never did I pass a more miserable night than this. A large wrought-iron pipe had been placed in a sloping position, just outside our cabin-door, and down this, at intervals of about a minute, poured a sackful of coals, brought thither from the hulk alongside upon the shoulders of a labourer. The effect was indescribable. Rushing down with a loud roar, each angle of each block of coal scratched a note of its own upon the surface of the iron pipe; and the combined chorus was a loud and hideous shriek of so frightful a kind as to jar upon every nerve in the entire system. I never heard or imagined such a sound; it was like the scream of a demon.

If your Coppin ever again brings out the incantation scene in "*Der Freischutz*," let him send a few cwt. of coals down a sloping iron shaft, and the effect will surprise even his conception of the striking and the horrible. As I do not choose to indulge my nerves, and thought it puerile to be reduced to a general curdling of the blood by any noise, however harsh, I bat-

tled with my sensations till towards morning, by which time I found I was on the brink of a brain fever, and took my blanket on deck—only to be roused up by one of the Lascar sailors, who intimated, as well as could be done by signs, that the washing of the decks was to be commenced immediately, and that if I did not get out of the way, the whole force of the jet would be devoted to my special benefit.

King George's Sound is not a lively place. Were the colonists properly awake, the fact of the steamers stopping here would lead to provision for their supplies at a much cheaper rate than they could possibly be procured in Melbourne. Pigs, sheep, poultry, eggs, potatoes, onions, pumpkins, might be rendered so attainable that both outward and homeward bound vessels would calculate upon supplying themselves. But nothing of this sort obtrudes itself upon the thoughts of the King George's Soundians. They vegetate according to a plan of their own, and do not trouble themselves with any abstruse calculations as to the amount of the coin of the realm the monthly steamer each way might be induced to leave behind her.

Little disposition as may be shown to develop the resources of the district, the natural productions in vegetation meeting one even at the landing-place are interesting and most beautiful. The peculiarities which earned for the first point touched at on the eastern shore the expressive title of Botany Bay, present themselves at the extreme opposite side of the continent; and plants obtrude themselves spontane-

ously on the attention which would rejoice the hearts of the owners of the finest conservatories in England. One red flower of the *Banksia* species was blossoming profusely while we were there, and is one of the most graceful and beautiful things I ever saw ; and on all sides indications exhibited themselves of the excessive richness of the flora of this portion of the Australian continent. The town is prettily situated on sloping ground, with great facilities for drainage and general cleanliness, and the soil and climate both seem favourable for gardening operations.

A great portion of the coaling and other coarser kind of labour is performed by ticket-of-leave convicts from Swan River. These men practise every art to obtain a passage to South Australia and Victoria ; and while recruited from such sources, your murderous bands of "stickers-up" and burglars are not very likely to be much diminished.

The township is beset with great numbers of the blacks. They are tolerably fine specimens of the native, and do not appear to be quite so degraded by contact with the superior race as is, alas, too usually the case. They smear themselves profusely with a mixture of red earth and oil, which gives them a very singular appearance, and a most horribly rancid smell. They amused us by throwing the spear and boomerang, were very ready with any little offer of services, and highly appreciate the little "kikpence." After spending a very pleasant morning in scrambling about the neighbourhood, and ascending a moderately high hill at the back of the township, which gives a good

idea of the locality and of the advantages of the harbour, the signal given intimated that coaling was over, and that our presence was again required on board. We left King George's Sound with rather more favourable impressions than we expected. Could the people infuse a little more energy into their system, it would become an interesting place.

Thus far we had been greatly favoured by circumstances of wind and weather ; but our internal arrangements were of a far less satisfactory kind, and great discontent was beginning to prevail amongst the passengers. We were overcrowded even on leaving Hobson's Bay, and in our saloon arrangements our meals were fast descending into a mere vulgar scramble. There was no discipline, no properly arranged attendance—scuffle, noise, loud shouting, and general discomfort, constituted the general characteristics of our little floating world. I will leave this part of my subject for a future communication, as it embraces matters of some importance to that great object—a perfectly easy, rapid, reasonably-priced, and tolerably comfortable means of communication between Great Britain and Australia. On board ship people will bestow a great deal of attention upon what they eat and drink, how they sleep and what they sit down upon. They have little else to do. Open air and sea breezes generate an energetic appetite, and the mind, shut out temporarily from contemplation of greater subjects, naturally dwells upon what is immediate rather than what is remote. Our dissatisfaction with the arrangements was greatly increased by our

taking in several additional passengers at Albany, although our various discomforts were each already off-handedly attributed to "overcrowding."

From King George's Sound the fair weather still continued. We rounded the dreaded Leuwin with a sea as smooth as a pond the day after we left port, and considerably a-head of our contract time. We now steered N. W. by N., knocked off our 250 to 270 knots a day, rapidly diminishing our latitude, and increasing our temperature.

On Sunday, the 25th of April, we got hold of the south-east trade, and set a cloud of studding sails. On the following Tuesday, in latitude 20°50', saw the first flying-fish. They were very few for some days, and throughout the whole passage struck us as much smaller than those of the Atlantic. As we got to the north of the line and neared Ceylon their numbers increased rapidly, till at times the whole sea seemed alive with them, and the bold dash into the air after them of the albacore and bonita was very interesting. These fish do not glide gently and elegantly into the water head foremost, like the porpoise, but very often seem to concentrate all their attention upon the spring upwards, allowing themselves to splash down again in any way they happen to fall; and, being very heavy and large, the slap upon the surface is considerable. The flying-fish is always an interesting little thing, and is looked for by passengers with great curiosity. Knocked up by fear of the ship, they rise, sometimes singly, generally in coveys, about the bows, and skip off to each side, as the wind allows. Skimming rapidly

along the surface, with their white bellies and black backs gleaming in the sun, they look very like swallows darting across the surface of a lake, although the sudden and often ludicrously inelegant dip with which their flight terminates quite destroys the bird-like impression originally created. They often fly on board at night time, attracted by the lights of the ship. As they are very delicate as a dish, I have often thought it a pity that some little provision should not be made for their capture in ships passing through the tropics. A net hung low at the side, like a woman's apron, with a lantern placed in it, would catch considerable numbers, and a dish of nice fresh fish is a treat at sea to a lady or an invalid well worthy of this little trouble.

As we ran rapidly away to the north, an ailment presented itself amongst the younger passengers which beset us during the rest of our voyage, and caused a good deal of anxiety and annoyance. It is worth describing, for it involves the question of how far this line is suited for families of young children. Of these we had about forty on board, and as we ran into the warmer latitudes they first showed some little disposition to a feverish suffering from the heat, and then broke out a very distressing cutaneous eruption, having all the appearance of small-pox. This went almost through the entire number. The disease differed in character in individual cases—with some the ulcer was only the size of a pea, while with others it took the form of a large and most painful boil, leading to severe suffering and great disfigurement. That it was infectious seemed undoubted, although the adults, with one

or two exceptions, escaped pretty well. A good deal of alarm was excited and many misgivings as to our liability to be thrown into quarantine. Slowly and painfully, however, the little sufferers came round again, and I fancied that they looked clearer in the complexion, and generally more hard and healthy than before they were attacked. As the complaint seemed to originate on board, we were at some loss to account for its appearance. I feel inclined to attribute it to the sudden change of temperature consequent upon rapid progress towards the equator. Making our four or five degrees a day, almost due north, we ran in a very short time from the cool regions of the Leuwin under a tropical sun, and this, producing great steamy heat on board the vessel, may be supposed readily to have acted upon the delicate organization of our little friends. Let these considerations, then, weigh duly with mothers of families who feel impelled to venture on the overland route.

On the 2nd of May we lost the trade wind, in south latitude $3^{\circ}30'$, and on the same day had our first breakdown in the snapping of a crank, which delayed us eight hours, and would have effectually stopped our machinery if we had not fortunately had a duplicate on board. Here, however, our more serious mishaps began, by which we were ever after beset till our arrival at Suez.

On the 4th of May we crossed the Line, and two days after began to look out sharply for Ceylon. A haze hovering over the land prevented our seeing it by daylight, but at eight p. m. we sighted the lighthouse,

and saw the rockets and deck lights of another steamer just off the port. The entrance not being very safe, we stood off and on all night.

The day I spent in this most beautiful of islands I shall always look back upon as one of the most delightful of my whole life. I must postpone the particulars for my next communication.

Elysium!

I speak as I find. A picture will appear inaccurate to those who visit a particular place in circumstances different from those in which such picture was drawn. Winter and summer, fair weather and foul, exercise their several all-powerful influences in brightening or deadening the tints. It may be too cold or too hot, it may rain when it ought to be fine, or the fine weather may have been so long continuous as to have burnt out the full lustre of even the finest country. Even personal health and condition have much to do in modifying our appreciation of a new scene.

Let others, then, describe Ceylon as they will. I describe it as it appeared to me; and a more beautiful or interesting country my eyes never yet rested upon.

At daylight we were all upon the *qui vive*, and crowding about the deck in shirts and pyjamas, till the appearance of the ladies warned us of the necessity of some attention to the toilet. The port was a few miles off, and the steamer that we had descried over night was just taking her pilot on board. She was one of the Peninsular and Oriental boats, just from Suez, and, with the admirable organisation characteristic of

that service, had taken care to secure the first attentions of the pilot. We waited with some impatience for an hour or two, till he condescended to come our way. And here we had the first opportunity of observing the singular boat in which the natives of this country venture fearlessly to sea. This boat rises high out of the water, the bottom part being the hollowed trunk of a tree, with the sides planked up straight, and so narrow that the boatman or passenger can only let down his legs, and has to sit on the sides or thwarts, three or four feet above the water. Of course, without some special provision, a boat like this would capsize with the very first wave. To prevent this, a rather heavy log, pointed at each end, and about two-thirds the length of the boat, is attached to one side of it by elastic poles of ten or twelve feet long, and skimming along the surface of the water, this perfectly answers the purpose of averting catastrophe. In these little vessels the natives venture boldly into the roughest seas, and although the log naturally acts as an obstruction as far as speed is concerned, a capsize is almost impossible. The oars used are like great spoons, with large round blades at the end, very ugly and clumsy indeed.

After reaching the anchorage we were, of course, all on shore directly, and from the first step to the last all was novel, fresh, and interesting. The wharf was crowded with natives, naked to the waist, and obtruding their various services before we even stepped on shore. After a prolonged Australian experience, there was something very striking to me in the first

contact with an inferior race not undergoing the process of extirpation at the hands of my all-conquering fellow-countrymen, but, on the contrary, well able to hold its own in the battle of life. With the Cingalese, his great ally, the sun, steps in to strengthen him in his conflict with his invader; and as the one preserves his health and vigour on his native soil, while the other gradually pales and dwindles beneath the fierce heats of a tropical sky, the melancholy picture of the waning black no longer presents itself. The white man appears as, in many respects, the benefactor of the native race—no longer as its merciless, cowardly, and too often utterly reckless and unprincipled exterminator.

The Cingalese are a very fine race—well formed, handsome, muscular, and athletic. Their eyes and hair are particularly fine, and their countenances are characterised by a gentle placidity of a very winning kind. The population one meets with in the towns seems to consist of two races—the original Cingalese, and some Moorish or Mahometan people, who have, at some time or other, established themselves on the island. These Mahometans are the principal traders, the true Cingalese constituting the labouring and agricultural classes. The Mahometans shave the head, and wear a little skull cap of a conical form; while the Cingalese, both male and female, wear their hair long, brought up into a knot at the back of the head, and secured with one of those circular tortoiseshell combs which we are accustomed to see on the heads of children. This gives them—the men particularly—a very singular appearance. They have little beard

or whisker, and dressing their hair exactly like the women, it is difficult to tell the one from the other, except by the difference of costume, the men almost invariably being naked to the waist, while the women have a small sort of spencer thrown over the neck and shoulders.

With a redundant population, a very low rate of wages, and a high comparative value for money, any one landing here with cash to spare, is almost overpowered by the zeal with which his slightest wishes are forestalled. One man holds an umbrella over your head, another fans you as you walk or sit, a third runs messages, a fourth interprets for you, and shows you all the lions. I am wrong in speaking of these zealous attendants in the singular number—for each service there is a dozen applicants, and the difficulty is to keep them off.

The hotels are roomy, scrambling, and ill arranged, according to all English ideas of comfort. The saloons are large and high, with everywhere access to the air. The bedrooms run into one another in the most singular way, and are often only separated by partitions of canvas. The cookery is peculiar, but pretty good, with one disagreeable drawback. The whole place is redolent of the singular odour of cocoa-nut oil. The natives smear themselves with it, and rub large quantities of it on their hair. You thus become acquainted with this peculiar smell; and when, as a matter of course, the universal oil is introduced into the cookery, you detect in your curry the precise flavour you have become accustomed to in your at-

tendant, and the recognition is not appetising. One may get accustomed to this; but I could not help wondering how much of this universal unguent had been put deliberately into the dish, how much had dripped spontaneously from the cook.

During the few hours necessary for taking in coals it is not possible to get far into the interior of this beautiful island; but neat little carriages await you at the door of the hotel, to convey you to the most favourite places of the neighbourhood. The drive, to one visiting tropical regions for the first time, is absolutely delicious. They take you out to a place rejoicing in the fragrant name of "Cinnamon Gardens," situated on a pretty river about five miles from Point de Galle. The road is one continuous drive through groves of the beautiful cocoa-nut tree, varied by the plantations of the natives. Looking down long vistas, in which a vertical sun struggles unsuccessfully to reach the earth, shaded by the luxuriant foliage of this most graceful tree, you see upon one side the surf, driven by a fresh sea-breeze, tumbling energetically upon the rocks and sandy beaches of the several little bays. Here, there, and everywhere, are scattered the habitations and plots of cultivation of a very dense population, and at each step you have pointed out to you some tree, or plant, or animal, or fruit, or flower, of which you may long have read, or which comes upon you with all the freshness of absolute novelty. Children run alongside with nosegays of unknown flowers, fruits of new form and colours, toys of outlandish and original build. You get to the gar-

dens, a poor little place enough, but in every bed you see some tree possessed of more or less interest. You do not touch a leaf that has not a fragrance of its own. The mango, the nutmeg, the several kinds of coconut, the cinnamon, the cashew-nut, the bread-fruit, the jack-fruit, and numberless other things, all press upon the attention with a vigour truly tropical, and the only difficulty is to observe all that is worth observing, or to select such as is most deserving of attention. Close past the garden runs the river (Jingela, I think), upon which boats ply from the hotel. The surrounding jungles swarm with monkeys, and you may occasionally see an alligator basking on the banks; but as we were there at mid-day, and some of the party had not provided themselves with umbrellas, it was too hot to be pleasant on the water, and we did not go far.

After a visit to a Buddhist temple, before the idols in which the poetic offering of freshly-gathered flowers was profusely strewed, and a lounge round the fruit markets and principal bazaars, we drove off in another direction, to a place presenting a beautiful prospect of the country, and called Wāk Walli (I will not pledge myself to Cingalese orthography). This was at a similar distance to that of the Cinnamon Gardens, but it was on high ground, and commanded a fine view of the meanderings of the river, and the country adjacent.

Wherever you go you are pestered by the native pedlar, who besets you incessantly with demands to purchase the curiosities of the island. These consist



Peter & Galt

Lamb, E. & Co.

DEATH OF THE KANGAROO.

of toys, trinkets, jewellery work, precious stones, and work-boxes, &c., of tortoiseshell, ebony, ivory, porcupine quill, and similar things. The prices asked are ludicrously out of proportion with those ultimately taken, and much of what is offered is trash of the most rubbishing description, the gems being imitation, and the setting thoroughly base. Swarms of these people are always round you, forcing their way into the hotels, although beaten out at intervals by the angry master; and presenting a scene of a sufficiently amusing character, although occasionally verging upon the troublesome. The appetite with which the newly landed Australian plunges into these things is most remarkable. We calculated that within the short time our steamer remained here not less than a thousand pounds were expended by the passengers in these little purchases.

At night we went out, after a very heavy tropical shower, to look for the fire-flies, which I had often heard of, and greatly longed to see. They differ greatly from what I expected. I imagined that they were a small insect like the house-fly, illuminated, and buzzing about amongst the branches as we see the house-fly buz in our houses. But the fire-fly is a small brown beetle, about half an inch in length, with a third of the lower part of its body devoted to its curious little lantern. It does not buz about like the house-fly, but flies straight on, with a continuous but wavering flight, gleaming more brilliantly at intervals, with a blue phosphorescent light, and being visible for much greater distances than I imagined. It is a

very beautiful and curious object, and far more striking than the English glow-worm. It can be seen at a distance of two or three hundred yards.

A very great comfort throughout this hot day (for the sun was exactly vertical,) was derived from the punkah—acquaintance with which I now made for the first time; and while enjoying its refreshing effects, I could not help wondering why no one with you adopts this method of tempering the extreme heats of your summers. There is nothing difficult in either the construction or mechanical arrangement. A simple, light framework, covered with ordinary room paper, and a hanging flounce of a few inches wide, like the valance of a bed, are all that is required; and, although you would not be able to secure the services of a low-priced native boy to ply it, a very simple piece of machinery would supply that want, and work the punkah with greater regularity than it is apt to be worked by human agency. If the dining-rooms of some of your richer colonists were furnished with this simple luxury in the hot weather, an ample return would be obtained for a very moderate outlay of trouble and expense.

Ceylon is rich in its natural history. The lordly elephant still roams through its forests, and even within a dozen miles of Point de Galle they are sometimes found. Contrary to the experiences of Livingstone and Gordon Cumming in Africa, it is rare to find a "tusker," very few of the Ceylon elephants being provided with this great temptation to their destruction. The island has various kinds of deer, a

leopard that commits some devastation upon the flocks, one or two kinds of bear, and a great profusion of the smaller animals. With birds it is very well supplied. That emperor of the feathered race, the peacock, is indigenous. They have several sorts of game, and plenty of the lesser varieties. Amongst others, I was surprised to find our old friend the English sparrow, as saucy and obtrusive as ever, forcing his way even into the spacious coffee-rooms of the hotels, and dragging his long straws on to the rafters, as he builds his nest, with his own amusing disregard equally of neatness and concealment.

The fruits more readily produced in a tropical climate are cheap and abundant. Splendid pine-apples were procurable at 3*d.* each; bunches of bananas, weighing half a hundredweight, 1*s.* 6*d.*; and so on. Oranges were bad and dear—they do not appear to thrive near Point de Galle; those we saw, at least, were all green, tough, and not very sweet, and cost about 1*s.* a dozen. The mango was not quite ripe, and at first taste I did not much like it. Meeting with it afterwards at Aden, in better condition, it improved upon acquaintance. It is a rich luscious fruit, with a large stone in the centre, to which the pulpy flesh clings with remarkable tenacity. It has a sort of medicated taste, slightly approaching turpentine; but when quite ripe, it is a very fine fruit, and a general favourite. Although the cocoa-nut abounds in profusion on all sides, and evidently grows wild, every tree seems to be the private property of some one. Round the lower part of the stem is bound one of

the long luxuriant leaves of the tree itself; which, getting crisp by exposure, makes a loud rustling sound if any one attempts to climb the trunk. In this art the natives are great adepts. They tie their heels together at a distance of a few inches, and clinging round the tree by these means both with hands and feet, they crawl up with wonderful rapidity, looking for all the world, as they mount, like gigantic grasshoppers.

European settlers seem to thrive in Ceylon, as far as the men are concerned. Ladies, probably from not taking sufficient exercise in the open air, are less fortunate; and the white children are apt to be spindling, dwarfed, and pallid. I was hailed by an old acquaintance, who had been fourteen years in the island, and he looked as well as if he had resided all the time with you. But he was sending away his wife and family for change of air, and spoke strongly of the difficulty of rearing children in the tropics. The total European population is very small, a mere handful amongst the million and three-quarters of a native population. These latter seem satisfied with the white man's rule, and the two races appear to live together harmoniously enough. Cultivation by aid of British skill and capital is rapidly extending; the vast resources of a most fertile land are in process of active development; and the exports of the island are constantly and progressively increasing.

Enough, however, of even this beautiful island. In leaving it, I would warn such of your readers as ever visit it, of the tendency to dishonesty frequently traceable amongst the natives. On our hurried de-

parture from one of the principal hotels, we found that in several cases the little packages of our luggage had been broken into and plundered; and although the landlord professed to make a great fuss about it, and stormed as if about to immolate some of his dusky myrmidons, we got no redress.

And now once more to our ship, and to an experience of all possible misfortunes consequent upon bad machinery and bad management. The anchor raised in an open bay, with a great surf running in, and most frightful rocks all around, and lo! the screw would not move an inch! A pretty predicament truly! Worse still, in the very crisis the chief engineer was found fainting at the ship's side. The intense heat of the engine-room, combined with the anxieties of his position, had proved too much for him, and he had just dragged himself into the open air when he fell.

After a delay of another day (and we were now beginning to get seriously behind time), the screw again condescended to move, and we slowly steamed away from beautiful Ceylon. Henceforth mishaps and discomforts thickened upon us, till they became well nigh intolerable.

I am no epicure. I look upon the Sybarite as an ass. Roughing it about the world, and long campaigning in Australia, have taught me the folly of accustoming oneself to too great indulgences in the way of creature comforts. Hang me by the "scruff of the neck" upon a hat-peg, or throw me over the back of a chair, and I sleep like a top. Give me a handful of saw-

dust and a drink at the nearest puddle, and I am a well-fed man for the day. But if people obtrude a higher bill of fare, a more elaborate accommodation upon me, I say, "Very well," and I insist upon its being acted up to throughout. I protest, as an insult to my intelligence, against the sawdust and puddle being imposed upon me under a cloak of turtle and venison. I am abstemious, not imbecile, and I protest against imposition. If my tailor sends me a "broadcloth" coat made of drugget or sacking I resent it as an affront, and I am equally watchful of my ship-owner, my butcher, my hatter, and my Boniface. I will not have my green pea rattle as I place it on my plate. I will not submit to one trace of fermentation in my strawberry. If the cook must *moult*, it must not be in my curry. In taking passage in a first-class steamer upon an important line, I am informed that a certain amount of convenience is paid for by the passage-money; and if this convenience is very considerably abbreviated, or almost altogether intercepted, I feel that I am cheated, and become obstreperous.

For, irrespective of all personal considerations, we must ever keep in mind our principal object—that of facilitating and rendering agreeable active intercommunication between the mother country and the Australias. And whoso injures, obstructs, or befouls that bridge by which services so sacred are discharged, is false to his duties as an Englishman, and inflicts a serious wrong upon his countrymen.

Without obtruding names upon your attention, I give you in full the correspondence which took place

between a considerable number of the male passengers by this steamer and the captain, when the discomforts of the ship had reached their climax. The things protested against may seem small to persons situated upon the land, but they are most of them of no light consequence to those exposed to the discomforts of the sea, and of a very high temperature at the same time; and the unreasonableness of some of the inconveniences will appear in striking relief in connection with the high-handed tone with which our remonstrances were received. Fancy, for instance, that we really had not as much as a hen-coop to sit on upon deck, and that when we begged for a seat of some sort, we were told that we ought to have brought chairs with us. Fancy over a hundred passengers directed to complete their bathing (in the tropics mind) by half-past six in the morning, when all the baths on board consisted of, I think, three, and the sun did not rise till six, while the cisterns could, without difficulty, have been kept always full, affording all day the luxury of an occasional bath. Fancy the drinking water hot from the condenser, the stewards sometimes saying plainly, when asked for a glass, "It is no use my giving it to you, it is too hot to drink."

And the water-closets! This is an unsavoury subject, and I know how deeply you will blush at its introduction into your decent pages. But to my mind, the water-closet is a peculiarly English institution, and one to which the Englishman owes no slight portion of his love of decency and self-respect. No other nation knows anything about it. The impres-

sions of even the Scotchman and Irishman are somewhat vague. Now, the management of this department on board ship has always appeared to me a scandal and a disgrace to the whole race of ship-owners, ship-builders, sea captains, pursers, stewards, and other amphibieæ. There is nothing more wantonly cruel than the taking an unfortunate landsman to sea, converting him into the wretched wreck of a man that sea sickness makes him, and when prostrated both in body and mind, surrounding him with difficulties in the direction alluded to. This convenience ought to be readily accessible, both from position and condition in every part of every ship. The disgraceful negligence of the comfort of a comparatively few cabin passengers, in our case, strongly suggests the misery often inflicted upon crowds of second class and steerage passengers, by the wanton inattention in this respect habitual amongst all connected with our mercantile marine. I confess that I was more angry and disgusted on this account than on any other of those alluded to in the correspondence. If denied the simple luxury of a seat on deck, I fetch up my campaigning rug, and lounge over my novel, supine. If any one interferes with my drinking water, I have a happy aptitude for consoling myself with beer. But negligence in the other respect is a constant and most irritating nuisance, calculated to interfere with health, and destructive of everything like comfort; and our treatment on board this ship was as bad as it well could be.

However, to the correspondence! It is as follows.

Complaining to the Company's agent in Point de Galle of some of our discomforts, he directed us to communicate by letter with the captain. We did so soon after leaving, and to this effect:—

“ *Victoria Steamer.*

“ TO CAPTAIN —.

“ SIR,—As a means for affording an opportunity for the removal of some portion of the dissatisfaction prevalent amongst the passengers, we beg to bring formally under your notice a few of our principal grounds of complaint, to which we request your attention.

“ The scarcity of water, and general negligence shown in reference to the water-closets and baths entail upon us serious inconveniences. The former are scarcely ever all in a condition to render them accessible to persons of ordinarily cleanly habits, and their state is frequently thoroughly disgraceful and disgusting. All remonstrances have hitherto failed in securing proper attention to this subject. The hours of admission to the baths are ridiculously inadequate to the number of those who wish to resort to them; they are now only open till half-past six in the morning. We are led to believe that there would be no difficulty in keeping the cisterns always supplied, so as to afford a bath at any hour of the day.

“ We have to complain that there is not proper attentiveness on the part of the stewards; it is frequently necessary to call at intervals for a considerable time between the decks before any notice is taken, and loud shouting from one cabin is liable to produce annoyance in others. As a part of the same subject, we may refer to the occasional disorganisation which prevails amongst the stewards generally, leading frequently to the absence of any attention at all.

“ The supply of fresh water for drinking is scanty, and its quality bad. It is frequently so cloudy and ill-tasted as scarcely to be fit for use; and such negligence is exhibited in its management that it has often been placed upon table quite warm from

the condenser. In hot latitudes, an ample supply of pure water, as cool as it can be made, is a necessary of life, and one which we do not feel should be withheld.

"The subject of a deficiency of seats on deck has already been brought under your notice. It seems hard that there should often actually be no place to sit down, except the hard deck. It may be usual for passengers in the Indian line to bring their own seats, but it is not usual on other lines, and if necessary, due notice should have been given beforehand. A simple wooden seat along the deck would be better than nothing at all, and such seats are always provided in vessels even of the most humble pretensions.

"Without expressing an opinion as to the style of victualling the ship, or reverting at any length to the frequently careless preparation of the food, we cannot but remark upon the irregularity often observable in the quantity and quality supplied. An occasional meal of a tolerably sufficient kind is contrasted by another at which little is placed upon the table but a few fried bones, which, however serviceable in filling up a gap, are scarcely ever touched by the passengers, and are useless for purposes of food. Those passengers who sit towards the middle of the tables have much reason to complain on this score.

"The awning upon some mornings is not put up till an hour at which the passengers are apt to be inconvenienced by the heat of a tropical sun, and the saloon is thereby unduly heated for the rest of the day.

"A great want of attention is perceptible in the ventilation of the ship, the port-holes being often kept closed when they might safely be left open, and sometimes left open when they ought to be closed, the cabins being thereby liable to be deluged with water. It is important to both comfort and health that the ports should be always open when unattended with any risk; but of this the passengers themselves, particularly at night, cannot be supposed to be very competent to judge.

"In conclusion, we must advert to the ungracious manner in which individual complaints are too apt to be met. Passengers

with very good grounds for appeal have been treated as if wilfully and designedly unreasonable, and a disposition has been shown to receive their statements in a style of such contemptuousness as is little calculated to establish friendly feelings on board.

"Repeating our request, that these matters may receive your consideration,

"We are, Sir, your obedient Servants."

(Signed by 24 male cabin passengers.)

To this letter the following communication was returned, addressed to the gentleman who first signed the letter of the passengers:—

"R.M.S.S. *Victoria*.

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 11th inst., embodying a series of complaints.

"I regret that such a course should have been deemed necessary; but as I and my officers have done all in our power to render the passengers as comfortable as the crowded state of the ship will allow, I must request that any future complaints may be made to the directors of the Company.

"In the meantime, however, it will still be my study, as well as that of all my officers, to make the remainder of the passage as agreeable as possible.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"—, Commander."

The off-hand sort of tone of this letter, the palpable incorrectness of the statements, and the reference for redress to a Board of Directors in London, put the complainants into a state of considerable irritation, and a meeting was called, resulting in the following communication:—

"R.M.S.S. *Victoria*.

"Captain —,

"SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge receipt of your letter of yesterday's date, in reply to that addressed to you by a

number of the passengers, and which I this day submitted to them. You will herein receive copy of a series of resolutions unanimously adopted by them.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

"—."

Copy of resolutions unanimously adopted at a meeting of passengers on board the R. M. S. S. *Victoria* :—

"That the reply of Captain — to a letter of remonstrance from between twenty and thirty of the passengers having been laid before this meeting, the Chairman be requested to communicate to Captain — the surprise and regret excited by the tone of such reply.

"That it was a discourtesy to address an answer to Mr. — individually, as virtually ignoring the existence of all the other passengers who signed the letter of remonstrance.

"That the endorsement by Captain — of the acts of his officers prior to the receipt of the letter of complaint renders him more immediately responsible than the passengers have been willing to believe for the various instances of neglect and mismanagement formally brought under his notice.

"That the assertion that everything has been done 'To render the passengers as comfortable as the crowded state of the ship will allow,' throws the imputation upon the passengers who have complained of having brought forward either false or unreasonable charges; and such assertion is in several respects at variance with the facts.

"That the unquestionable overcrowding of the ship, whatever inconvenience may be thereby caused, cannot be held to have occasioned the particular grievances brought under the notice of Captain —, those grievances consisting of want of attention to the waterclosets and baths, frequent inattention of the stewards, badness of the fresh water, deficiency of seats on deck, negligence of cooking and inequality of meals, neglect of the awning on deck, and of ventilation by the ports.

"That the reference of all future causes of complaint to the 'directors' resident in London appears designed to preclude any reasonable hope of attention to anything that may be wrong, as the various discomforts arising from mismanagement, however distressing at the time, are generally of that ephemeral character as to be singularly unsuited for reference to a distant board.

"That the meeting expresses its mortification that an effort at improvement should have been met in any other than an amicable and conciliatory spirit; the adoption of a tone unnecessarily offensive being naturally calculated to interfere with that harmony on board, to the promotion of which, rather than its interruption, the passengers have the best right to look to the commander of the ship."

To this the following reply was received, by which the controversy was closed, so far as correspondence was concerned:—

"R.M.S.S. *Victoria*.

"To —, Esq.

"SIR,—I beg to acknowledge your letter of the 13th inst., enclosing a copy of resolutions.

"With regard to the discourtesy of addressing a reply to Mr. —, individually, it appears to me that it should have been patent on the face of it that it was so addressed on behalf of all, his signature being first.

"I can only refer you to my former answer, wherein I state that I and my officers will still continue to do all in our power to render the passage as agreeable as possible, and, as also stated in my former letter, that if, after all that can be done, you are still dissatisfied, your ultimate course will be to complain to the directors of the Company.

"Anything that is uncomfortable, if remediable, I shall be happy to have rectified on personal representation, without the necessity of correspondence; but I must express a hope that meetings and endeavours to make discontent general may be discontinued.

"In conclusion, I trust that the present irritability may subside, and the remainder of the passage be passed amicably and agreeably, and thus render further correspondence on the subject unnecessary.

"I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,

" —, Commander."

But the worst of these disputes on board ship is that they lead to separation of parties, and mutual ill-feeling throughout the vessel; and the breach now made was never healed from that day to the time at which the passengers moved off in solemn silence from the ship's side in the little steamer at Suez. It is only fair to say, that in many respects ours was an exceptional case, and that it ought not to be considered a fair average sample of the treatment of passengers aboard these ships.

While this was going on within the wooden boundaries of our little community, things external were not improving, and the inward and outward annoyances rather tended to aggravate each other. If the ship is going along, and the voyage is prosperous and likely to be kept within its time, passengers will usually submit with reasonably good temper to personal discomforts; but when everything goes wrong, no progress is made, and the voyage threatens to become very protracted, people are discouraged in submitting to inconveniences, evident enough to all the seven senses, and the duration of which becomes altogether doubtful.

Our machinery was by this time in a very shaky condition. Almost every day, and sometimes several

times a day, the engines were stopped altogether, for alteration and repairs. Sometimes it was a boiler, sometimes a cylinder, sometimes the packing of a piston, sometimes the renewing of a valve; but one thing or other was always wrong. We were now behind time, made very slow progress, and began to entertain doubts whether the steamer ever would get to Suez at all.

Early in May the monsoon changes its direction from north-east to south-west. The monsoon is the trade-wind of these seas, modified in its direction by the action of the large continents in the neighbourhood. Hoping to reach Aden before the monsoon had decidedly changed its direction, we made the grave mistake of passing through what is called the "eight-degree channel," between the Maldivé and Laccadive Islands, instead of going through the "one-degree channel," south of the group. By getting good southing when leaving Ceylon, you get the wind and its attendant sea so far on your beam that they do not greatly interfere with your progress; sometimes even the monsoon creeps a little farther to the southward, and becomes a fair wind; but by making so much northing as the eight-degree channel requires, you convert your monsoon into a head-wind, and a sea meets you quite sufficient to cope with such a dilapidated piece of shipping as the *Victoria* was fast becoming. At this time Her Majesty's mails were progressing about 100 miles a day, or an average of four miles an hour—a most gratifying result, after all the subsidies that have been granted, speeches made, and agitation carried on for so many years.

Creeping along still within a few degrees of the line, the heat became very trying, and the children, afflicted as I have described them already, became most pitiable objects, and highly calculated to excite anxiety in the minds of their friends. The heat in the cabins was a closer and moister heat than I expected to find. The real temperature by thermometer was not high, rarely above 90°; but everything was steamy and oppressive. Bed-clothes at night were of course out of the question—a light cotton shirt and pyjama were all we could stand, and even then sleep in the cabins was a matter of difficulty. If you awoke in the night you found your whole bed, the pillow particularly, drenched with perspiration, and everything clammy, close, and stifling. The passengers migrated from their cabins and slept about on the floors of lobbies and galleries, giving a most camp-like or hospital appearance to the between decks. One could not move out of one's cabin in the night without setting one's foot on the face of a man—a disagreeable sensation to the stepper, and not a particularly pleasant one to the steppee I should fancy. Despite heavy dews and brilliant moonshine, I migrated to the deck, and should have got on much more comfortably there but for that inevitable Lascar, who would commence deck-washing before it was well light.

Thus, then, we crawled along. We ought to have left Ceylon on the 8th May, and arrived at Aden on the 17th, or within nine days. We did leave Ceylon on the 10th, or two days behind our time, and we arrived at Aden on the 26th, or nine days behind



Peter & Galt.

BUSHRANGERS' LAIR.

London & C.

time,—occupying a period in the length of the voyage unprecedented as to any steamer that ever sailed from port to port.

We sighted Guardafui, on the African coast, on the 24th, ran into very smooth water directly after, and anchored in Aden harbour at ten in the morning of the 26th, a day after the time at which we ought to have been leaving Alexandria for Malta.

Aden has been very well described by Sir Charles Napier as a “gigantic cinder.” The whole country shows unmistakably its volcanic origin, and everything about it is barren, arid, rugged, vigorous, and grim. It was intensely hot. Situated in latitude 12 deg. 40 min. N., the sun was still vertical, and it beat down upon this unsheltered rock with a force that it is difficult to conceive. It rarely rains; scarcely a cloud ever extends its shelter over this burnt-up place, which bakes and bakes perpetually in an uninterrupted flood of sunshine.

However, we soon all scampered on shore, chartered donkeys, and set off in a regular chimney-sweep canter to the cantonments, or principal township, about three miles off. The place is very strongly fortified, showing the importance attached to it by the British Government. With great internal advantages of a defensive character, walls and forts run or are perched in all directions, and are of considerable strength, and a look out is kept upon a hill so high that the guard is only changed about once a week. The population is as mixed as that of Babel. The

pale Arab with his classical features, offers you ostrich feathers, tortoiseshell curiosities, and other trinkets; the Parsee supplies your lemonade; the Nubian and Abyssinian flock around you, and bore you to death with their offers of services, while cross breeds of all degrees and kinds beset you on every side. "Show you bazaar, sar?" screamed a woolly-pated black fellow, slightly underclothed, pushing his way through swarms of others similarly woolly and similarly unclad. "Yes," I said, "I should like to see the bazaar, but I could not do with so many of them round me." "Take stick, sar," said he, pushing a large one into my hand, "and kill all de oder boys." A pleasant proposition to one opposed to capital punishment for half a century, and who would save a Greenacre from the gallows if he could.

To the bazaar we went. "Much fruit at bazaar, Sambo?" "Is, sar; all fruit—too much fruit," a peculiar idiom by which these people describe an ample supply of anything. "Plenty of water in the tanks?" "Is, sar; too much water."

A bazaar in the east is not much like that of Soho. There is an absence of dolls, scented soaps, and wooden horses. It consists at Aden of a collection of small shops, arranged usually under a verandah, each shop being presided over by a swarthy gentleman, who sits cross-legged in the midst of his stores, looks at you with keen and rather curious eyes, but does not seem at all anxious to sell anything. The great bulk of these little places of business are devoted to the sale of grain, laid out in small bags touching one

another, and nearly occupying the entire area of the store. Rice, maize, peas, lentils, barley, &c., abound on all sides, besides garlic and other edible substances of unknown form, consistency, and uses. The "too much fruit" did not impress us with its superabundance. It consisted of bananas, mangoes, grapes, packed in small baskets, and curiously shrivelled in the sun, and a few other trifling things.

From the bazaar we went to the tanks, which are very interesting. They are on the most extensive scale, and capable of storing up millions of gallons of water. Their history is curious. They are of great antiquity, but have been buried and unknown time out of mind, and have only lately been discovered, re-excavated, and put into order. These repairs are still going on, and the "too much water" consisted of a very little drop at the bottom of the highest tank. They are all connected with one another, running down a long steep gully in the rocks, along which the overflowings are conducted by a channel of masonry. The necessity for some such provision is shown by the extreme badness of the water supplied at the wells in the neighbourhood, which is usually warm, and very ill-tasted. Good water is conveyed over the hills upon men's backs, but along a path which, for such purposes, seems well nigh impracticable. It is carried in pigs' skins, and these give it a look rather the reverse of tempting: the skin, full of water, retaining something of the form and outline of the animal, the head and feet being removed, and the orifices tied up that are caused by the amputations. In this way is

this essential fluid transported in every direction on donkeys, camels, and men; and if rain ever falls in sufficient quantity to fill the tanks, a great boon will be supplied in a profusion of good water so near the more populous part of the settlement.

Returning to my steed, *alias* donkey, which, although like all the rest, small and miserable looking, was a very good and rather high-couraged little animal, I cantered back to the part of the settlement nearest the port, and we amused ourselves for the rest of the day by observing the customs of the people, and the crammed condition of the hotel. One or two of the Peninsular and Oriental Company's boats were just in, and a whole cargo of passengers from the Mauritius had arrived, and being unable to get any further on account of the crowded condition of the steamers, were doomed to a fortnight's imprisonment upon the cinder. We were amused by the haughty and supercilious manner in which we poor Australians were looked at by the Indian passengers; neither the costume nor the manners of people from your part of the world at all coming up to the Indian standard of the *comme il faut*. It is not exactly a fair comparison, for your East Indian, half soldier, half red-tapist, is pretty sure to have attained the style peculiar to those classes, while we, founders of new colonies, have had something else to think of than the tie of a cravat or the cut of a summer jacket; and if we carry into the outward world something of the roughness of a recently-settled country, let it not be forgotten that this very roughness has not been without its good uses for such primitive purposes.

We were deterred from amusing ourselves by any inspection of the interior by the assurance that any attempt to pass "the lines" would be prevented, as the Arabs were very hostile, and pretty sure to shoot any one they found outside them. They are greatly disinclined to the British having any foothold in their country, and would take Aden itself if they could. A short time before they had stopped all supplies for nine days, and their relations with their European brethren are in every respect far from pacific.

Here, for the first time in my life, I saw the camel going about his ordinary business as a beast of burden. I did not venture to ride one, thinking the novelty of donkey-riding quite enough for a day. The curious, stealthy, shuffling pace of the camel, with his ghostly stride and noiseless footfall, contrasted very strongly with the bold, vigorous tread to which we Australians had been accustomed in the horse.

At night we were summoned on board again, and here we were favoured with another specimen of the perfect discipline prevailing on board this well-managed ship. A quarrel took place between the captain and chief mate, in consequence of the latter being denounced very energetically before the passengers as a "skulker," &c. He was ordered to his cabin under arrest, and refused to go. The quarter-masters were ordered aft to put him in irons, but they virtually declined to act, and a personal scuffle ensued between the captain and his chief officer on the bridge, which was only terminated by the loud cries of indignation of the passengers at such a disgraceful scene taking place on board a

large mail steamer. The affair looked rather threatening, for the sailors were divided in opinion, and it was reported that the majority were very favourably inclined to the chief officer, and were determined that he should not be subjected to the indignity of being put in irons.

This putting the first mate under arrest had been so often repeated at the various ports as to have become a matter of joke amongst the passengers. It had been the first act of the captain on coming on board at Sydney, at King George's Sound, and now again at Aden, till the order "Heave the anchor and put the chief officer in irons!" became a byword amongst us. The feud between these two officers became from this time irremediable. The mate was finally persuaded to go to his cabin by some of the passengers; he was kept there for the rest of the voyage, taken back to Australia under arrest, and the case has probably by this time occupied the attention of your courts. Into the merits of the quarrel I have no inclination to enter.

Misfortunes never come alone. No sooner was the semi-mutiny quelled, and the anchor up, than we found we could not get out of the harbour. Either the tide was out or there was some gross mismanagement, but we got into very shallow water, and found the steamer unmanageable. "And a half, four;" "by the mark, four;" "and a half, three;" "and a quarter, three;" "by the mark, three;" "quarter less three;" followed one another with disagreeable rapidity from the main chains; and "quarter less three;" being

nautical for $16\frac{1}{2}$ feet, while the steamer drew 17 or 18, the disagreeable fact dawned upon us that the vessel was aground, and dragging along the bottom of the harbour; a fact further proved by the sand and mud brought to the surface of the water. However, the sea was fortunately as smooth as a millpond, and by dint of anchoring again, and getting our head swung round, we got off in a better direction, and finally got safely to sea once more.

At Aden we replenished our somewhat exhausted stores with eggs, fowls, the fat-tailed black and white sheep of Africa, and sundry other things. The poultry and eggs were small, but delicate and eatable, and the mutton of the black-headed Abyssinians was very fat and good. These things contrasted strongly with the fowls and mutton to which we had before been accustomed, as either bad treatment or the sudden changes of temperature had reduced both sheep and hens to skeletons, inducing those particular about their feeding to throw themselves unreservedly on pigs. For your pig is after all your true cosmopolite. With reasonable attention, all climates are pretty nearly alike to him. Give him enough of almost anything to eat, and a dry bed, and he sticks by you to the last; in life is faithful, patient, healthy, and easily satisfied; in death savoury in every form. Lightly corned, and with his attendant peas-pudding, I acknowledge my gratitude to him during some of the most disagreeable parts of the overland route, and should not feel happy if I did not disburden myself of this tribute to his memory.

In the afternoon of the day we left Aden we passed through the Straits of Bab-el-Mandeb, and fairly entered the far-famed Red Sea. We had expected calms and intense heat, but the temperature was moderate, the sea smooth, and we had a fresh breeze from the north, which the venerable Abyssinian who piloted us up the Red Sea assured us would last all the way to Suez. And, altogether, for the first day or two, we were inclined to pronounce the dreaded Red Sea rather a nice place. The closeness and heat below were still considerable. One still stumbled over a man and a brother if one ventured out of or into one's cabin in the night. Claret and water still superseded tea and coffee in one's affections, and the deck was the favourite bedroom except with a small body of effeminates.

But soon break-down succeeded break-down; the head wind increased in strength, and the steamer's progress became less and less. Ninety-two miles a day; eighty-four miles a day; one hundred and thirteen miles a day; eighty-two miles a day; sixty miles a day—at such rates did her Majesty's Mails crawl along towards Suez. Wheezing, jingling, sobbing and sighing, throbbing with a varying and hesitating throb, as if each pulsation were her last, did the poor broken-down old tub endeavour to bear up against a six or eight knot breeze and its attendant swell. Sometimes if it blew a little stronger, she would fairly broach to, roll in the trough of the sea, refuse to obey her helm, and become a mere log upon the water. With a rocky and barren coast on each

side, and islands and reefs abounding, we were in very considerable danger, and long odds were taken that even now the old steamer would never get to Suez.

In the Red Sea you rarely see land, except a point or two, or an island, till you reach the Gulf of Suez, about a couple of hundred miles from the town of that name. From this point land is visible, usually on both sides. It is by the occasional glimpses of headland or islands that our old pilot steers. He knows nothing of compasses and those sort of games, as Mr. Squeers has it, but simply directs the ship by landmarks. He was quite black, dressed *à la* Othello without the smartness, and was very vigilant in the performance of his duties, sometimes remaining on deck all day and night for several days in succession, and only retiring for rest when he knew that danger was out of the question. His principal comfort consisted in an occasional cigar, about the size of a marling spike, which he smoked with great gravity. His principal grievance was the broken-down condition of the steamer, which he anathematised *sotto voce* with great energy. These men get about £10 for piloting a vessel from Aden to Suez and back; and although not calculated from their appearance to inspire confidence in the nautical mind, they are careful, experienced, and efficient.

We entered the Gulf of Suez on the ninth day from Aden, whereas we ought to have reached Suez itself in six. Approaching ground historically interesting in the highest degree, we began to read up our Bibles with great attention, to inform ourselves

accurately as to the proceedings of Moses and the Israelites, just as we were coming to the scene of their wanderings. The same day we passed Mount Sinai full in sight. It consists of a rugged range of hills rising in three separate points to the respective heights of 8,900, 8,600, and 8,500 feet; and upon one of these points, the law was given to Moses. The country round, as far as we could judge from the sea, was of the most barren, arid, and inhospitable character. It never rains: no sign of vegetation is discernible anywhere; everything is dry, parched-looking sand and rock.

I confess that I scarcely wonder at the discontent of the Israelites if they were led about for forty years in such a country as this, although I believe the time of their travels was prolonged on account of their contumacy. "Papa," said a very intelligent little lad, whose parent we will *not* suspect of having paraded his recent biblical readings upon his offspring, "if we were there, should we see the rock that Moses made the water come out of?" "Well, my dear, perhaps we might." "And should we see the water coming out of the rock that Moses struck?" "I don't think we should; the water was only designed for that occasion." "But, papa, if we were there, and we were Moses, and we struck the rock, would water come out of the rock now?" I give you this as a specimen of deck gossip within cannon-shot of Sinai. As to the crossing place, there is much controversy. The balance of opinion seems in favour of a place now used as a ford above Suez, the water having got

much shallower of late years from the silting of the sand. Our clerical fellow-passengers were rather angry at this theory, and select a much wider part of the Gulf as the scene of that remarkable incident. There is a great satisfaction in your devout mind in making a miracle as large as possible, and any tendency to reduce its proportions is resented almost as an affront to religion and its professors.

Towards afternoon of the 6th June, the long looked-for Suez hove in sight, fourteen days later than should have been the case, involving a penalty of between five and six thousand pounds. And as this unfortunate ship had to turn round for Sydney the following day, and had not the remotest chance of making up her lost time, she had already sunk another penalty of equal amount on the outward voyage, whatever else she might incur in returning. As ordinary daily expenses consequent upon this loss of a month up and down will amount to another £6,000 or £7,000, here is a dead loss in one trip of something like £20,000, or nearly the whole value of this ship, every farthing of which might have been saved by sending a good ship instead of a bad one. And, under such management, who can wonder that the Company is breaking up and ruined?

We got to Suez at last on a fine Sunday afternoon about four, and immediately off came the little steamer to convey us and our luggage five miles to the shore, as well as a whole fleet of boats, to take off the mails, and cargo, &c. Here we had undergone a complete change in our ethnology, the true Egyptian in his red cap abounding on all sides. The vigour of Mahometanism showed itself almost directly in a way quite

sufficiently remarkable. For a little before the sun set we noticed a great amount of genuflection amongst the boatmen alongside, and we soon found that they had all their faces turned to Mecca, and, utterly regardless of everything around them, were deeply engaged in their devotions—rising, kneeling, bending to the ground and kissing it twice devoutly, rising, kneeling, &c., for several minutes. Strange! such devotion in men of such a class as this! When shall we see our ordinary boatman so impressed with the great truths of the Christian religion?

With joyful hearts we transferred ourselves and our properties to the little steamer, which was of course crowded to the gunwale, and with a hearty cheer for the chief engineer, who had borne up so long against almost overwhelming difficulties, and in profound silence as to everything else on board, we bade a contemptuous farewell to this wretched old impostor. Broken down, and a virtual wreck as she was, we heard afterwards that she set sail the day after on her return voyage, furnishing a fine specimen of the recklessness with which life and property are risked by steam companies and other similar bodies. We entertained the greatest doubts as to whether she would ever get to Sydney, particularly as she would reach the Australian coast during the stormy months of winter. If anything happens to her, I have no hesitation in saying that somebody ought to be hanged. I should be sorry to indicate the individual.*

* This steamer was not only sent back to Sydney, but despatched on a second trip to Suez; upon which occasion she sprang a leak, and the passengers had to pump for their lives.

We heard after we had left that she had been on fire for three days, the coals having ignited and smouldered for that time; so that on fire, aground, and with the machinery broken down or out of order some twenty or thirty times, you will easily see that we had good reason to be glad enough to be free from her.

Before concluding all remark as to this ship, I wish to allude to an arrangement on board of her which was productive of very bad effects, and which must be guarded against in any properly-managed line. I believe that it is usual for the captain of a steamer to have the dieting of the passengers at a certain daily allowance. This must be found to work well, I presume, or it would not continue to be the practice, but I see some serious objections to it. It has the effect of placing captain and passengers in an antagonistic position upon a matter of some little delicacy, and if a mean or money-loving man, questions are apt to arise calculated to lead to unpleasant consequences. But on another point I have no doubt whatever. The company charge a certain sum for passage money, exclusive of wines, beers, and spirits, which are supplied on board at what they call reasonable prices, but at what, considering the quality, we thought high. The profits of this very lucrative trade were shared, as far as we could judge, on board our ship between the captain and purser. Your nautical man is always an underpaid man, a captain's salary of £40 or £50 a month imperfectly remunerating him for the toil and anxiety of commanding a large ship. As a contrast

to this in our own case, we had about 100 adult passengers, whose average weekly expenditure in the way I have alluded to would be about £1, yielding an income of £100 a week, one-half of which would be profit. Who can wonder, then, that whatever else went wrong, however tedious the voyage and dissatisfied everybody on board, the public-house trade throve? Who can wonder that drunkenness prevailed, and that the universal want of discipline and absence of management were greatly attributable to this cause? What can be thought of that system which makes the man who ought to be the great principal check upon this sort of thing the most immediately interested in its encouragement? It was alleged on board that even the crew were supplied with what grog they pleased to have, and had the means of paying for. Certainly, a small window opened from the bar upon the deck, at which respectable passengers told me they saw sailors purchasing liquors. I did not see it myself, but I have a very vivid impression that any man who went to that window with half-a-crown in his hand was very unlikely to go away again without his pint of rum, &c.

In the ramifications of this most preposterous arrangement a keen observer will trace much of what went wrong with us, and I trust that the transparent absurdity of giving the captain of a vessel any pecuniary interest in the sale of liquors on board will be so evident that the usage—if it be a usage—will be put a stop to for ever.

I have dealt somewhat hardly with this ship and her

commander. I have no private feeling in the matter. The gentleman was an entire stranger to me, and is likely to remain so. But I want to see a reasonable, comfortable, and rapid communication opened up between England and Australia, and the man who does anything to interrupt it or bring it into odium, lays a rail across the line upon which a most valuable traffic is springing up, and deserves to be dealt with accordingly.

It was dark when we got to Suez. The landing place was lighted by Arabs with burning wood, flaming brightly in little cressets on the tops of staves. We ran round to the hotel, situated close to the pier; nearly stumbling as we ran over what were apparently heaps of sand, but—"Bless me, they are camels!" from the first of the party, informed us that these silent, motionless objects were indeed not altogether inanimate lumps. They were the camels waiting to convey the mails and luggage to the first station of the railway, distant about twenty miles in the desert; and, lying peacefully here, were as quiet as if they were really heaps of earth.

The hotel is very large, well built of stone, and generally convenient. It has been erected by the Pacha, for the benefit of passengers, and is rented to the present landlord. We got a good tea in a large saloon, selected our bedrooms, and then took a turn through the town. The tragedy of Jeddah was then only in preparation, and we, handful of unbelievers, considered ourselves quite safe in streets and bazaars crowded with the bigoted Mussulman.

The loading of the camels was a very wild, peculiar, and interesting sight. It took place in a large enclosure close by the wharf, and brilliantly lighted all round by the means I have already described. The camels are much larger and finer animals than those we saw at Aden. Each one carries a load of from 10 cwt. to 12 cwt. The drivers force them to lie down, and then tie a rope round the bent knee, to prevent them from rising till the load is adjusted; for, although a patient animal, the camel seems to receive his loading under protest; and as it is put on, and still more as he rises with it, he roars, and moans, and groans, in a very distressing way, and as if being subjected to severe suffering. As five or six were loaded, they were formed into line, a man led the foremost, and away they trooped off, with their silent, ghost-like shuffle, into the outside darkness. One of them while receiving his load rose suddenly, scattering boxes and bags on all sides, when a man in authority rushed forward, in a state of the greatest anger, and unmercifully belaboured, not the camel, but the driver—an intimation that we were under despotic rule, indeed. It was with rather disagreeable misgivings we saw our several properties sent off into the desert in this wild fashion; for we were never to see them again till we reached the steamer at Alexandria; and, while deprived of all power of control over them ourselves, we received the cool intimation of the company in their printed regulations, that they were in no way responsible. I may as well state here, however, that on board the steamer at Alexandria



L. E. 1874

NATIVE SEPULCHRE.

L. E. 1874

everything was found in safety, and that the baggage was in much better order than the inspection of the process of camel-loading in the dark would at all have led us to expect. The only thing missing was the cordage with which the packages were secured, and for which some of the parties employed in the transit service seem to have an insatiable appetite. Such of us as had indulged in this particular vanity were proportionately indignant. But I confess that I did not much share in the prevailing sentiment—partly because I could not help fancying that the cordage had been eaten by the camels, as so high-dried a fodder seemed peculiarly adapted for that very high-dried animal; partly because, not having had any cordage of my own, I had been rather envious of my fellow-passengers at Suez, in respect of their more ample endowments in that way.

We walked through some of the very narrow bazaars, sat down in a smoking-room, and had a cup of coffee *selon les règles*, contributed a sixpence to the support of a venerable old gentleman who was edifying the people in the room by reading the Koran aloud, and stumbled our way back to the hotel, amongst crowds of people lying under the walls of the houses who we heard were pilgrims bound for Mecca.

In the morning we were all aroused by candle-light to take car for the first station in the desert. The cars are little wooden boxes, with springs not of the first order. Each car is drawn by a pair of mules at the wheels, and a pair of horses leading, driven by a man on the box, and our whole cavalcade was

accompanied by a gentleman on horseback, who galloped about in all directions—flogging a jibbing horse here, swearing at a lazy driver there, and making himself generally useful in a very noisy and bustling way. As we filled about twenty cars, and we all rattled out into the desert together, we made rather a commotion in a neighbourhood usually pretty quiet. In a few minutes we were in the open desert, with a desolate scene all around us, relieved only at intervals of six or eight miles by the places where they changed horses, or by an occasional line of camels plodding slowly along, exactly as you see them in pictures of the East.

The desert is ordinarily very stony, the sand itself being drifted into heaps sometimes approaching the size of considerable hills; and over these stones the car-drivers jolt one most unmercifully. The tops of the cars are rather low, and as we cantered rapidly over the stones, we were jerked with such violence against the top, that I really thought I should have got my neck broken, and was very glad indeed when we arrived at our journey's end, at the present terminus of the railway, about twenty miles from Suez. Keeping all together (and having drawn lots for precedence as to starting and changing horses, we were not allowed to separate,) it was very dusty, and the heat was intense; but in other respects we had no reason to complain. At the station we were provided with a very comfortable breakfast, at the expense of the company, and, what was even more refreshing, the materials for a good wash; and soon after we were all

hurried into the railway train, and started off for Grand Cairo.

Railways are all pretty much alike, and there are but few material points of difference between an Egyptian railway and an English one. We travelled at a pretty good rate, arriving at Cairo about three in the afternoon; the distance travelled from the first station being about eighty miles. The desert retained all its dreariness till within a mile or two of Cairo itself, when the country suddenly became very fertile; fine gardens and well-grown trees presented themselves on all sides, and the whole scene underwent an entire change. In the desert we scarcely saw a sign of life, either animal or vegetable. A little stunted herbage, growing in tufts, presented itself here and there, and amongst this we once or twice started a little antelope or two, which bounded away into the distance, looking very like the ordinary town goat; and now and then a small scrubby bush would be seen growing alongside the line. Generally everything was distressingly bare and arid, the plains occasionally presenting the bones of a dead camel, and a vulture now and then soaring against the distant horizon.

On arrival in Cairo we learned, to our great dismay, that we were ordered on to Alexandria that afternoon; the lamentable delays in the first part of our voyage necessitating an almost equally lamentable hurry through this interesting country. In fact, we now began to feel that Her Majesty's mails were really moving along as they ought to do, and that passengers were regarded in their proper light along a mail line,

as an accident, not a principal consideration. It was rather a mortifying thing, however, to be within sight of the pyramids, to see the sun gleaming brightly on their summits at the distance of six or eight miles, and yet to be able to get no nearer ; to glance hastily out from the station on to the busy streets of Cairo, and to see no more. There was no help for it, though ; we felt that it was right that there should be all this haste, and we submitted with the best grace we could. On, on again therefore, till long after dark, for Alexandria was 120 miles off, and it was four when we started.

During the whole evening we travelled through a very bare country, generally consisting of rich dark soil, thickly inhabited. There were no fences between the fields, and the crops seemed to have been recently removed ; at all events none were growing, and threshing was actively going on in the old original style, with a man sitting in a sort of large arm-chair placed upon a heavy sledge, and drawn by a pair of oxen going round and round a large circle, over which the straw was strewn. The towns appeared at intervals of a few miles—strange huddled-looking collections of unburnt brick, making them look like brick-fields or potteries of some kind. The fields swarmed with camels, buffaloes, and other outlandish-looking animals, and with men and women of equally extraordinary appearance ; the latter usually covered up, so that only the eyes were visible.

We crossed the far-famed Nile about fifty miles from Cairo, at which point it is at this season a little

insignificant stream, not bigger than the Yarra at Melbourne. We crossed it again after dark at a point at which they had, fortunately, toppled over a few of their grandees a day or two previous, so that they took us safely over in a steamer, and put us in another train at the other side. We reached Alexandria about eleven, very tired with our day's work, as we had been at it ever since four in the morning. How our ladies with large families managed to get through the bustle and confusion, the heat and worry, of this day, I cannot conceive; but I confess that I pitied them from the very bottom of my heart. The scuffle in the refreshment-rooms, and at the change of trains at the second crossing of the Nile, was enough to have driven any ordinary woman of sound family instincts out of her seven senses. And yet they bore up against it wonderfully; and the lady most tried amongst them, the mother of seven children, varying from twelve years to two months, all but two of whom had been terribly afflicted on board with the complaint I have described, with a sick husband and only one domestic, told me afterwards in Southampton that she thought nothing of what she had undergone, and that she would start on the overland trip again the next day without hesitation. Certainly, if ever there were a lady who deserved the title so frequently bestowed by fast young gentlemen upon persons of abundant spirits—that of a “brick” I mean—it was this courageous little woman.

Alexandria is a nasty place, lying low and flat, abounding with disagreeable smells, and subject to

attacks of the plague. We got quarters in a comfortable hotel, of which there is no scarcity; and being ordered on board the *Cambria* at nine the following morning, we were up betimes to see such of the lions as an hour or two of early day would admit of. These consisted of little more than Pompey's Pillar, Cleopatra's Needle, and the English and French Consuls, to whom such of us as intended going through France had to apply for passports. Pompey's Pillar is an immense shaft of granite of very respectable antiquity, and showing some of the signs of the wear and tear of ages. It has been further disfigured by some heathen, who has scrawled his plebeian patronymic of "Button" in gigantic letters of red paint upon the base—leading to a disagreeable jumble in the mind between the ancient hero and the modern snob. The disfigurement, as a type of the modern blackguardisms, was productive of one pleasant sensation, too, for one turned away from Pompey's Pillar with a thorough conviction for once pervading one's mind that one really had "a soul above Button's." Cleopatra's Needle is a more elegantly-formed pillar, with hieroglyphics very plainly carved upon its four sides. A second pillar, of similar character and dimensions, has fallen prostrate, and is buried with dust and rubbish. I have an impression that it has been presented to Great Britain, but that we have never mustered courage to undertake the task of fetching it away. I am not quite sure, however, whether this is the pillar of which I have heard.

On board the *Cambria* we were delighted, as I have

stated before, to find our luggage in much better condition than we had at all expected after its camel conveyance through the desert. But as these letters are intended as a series of hints to one and all as to facilitating intercourse between the very ends of the earth, I would here remark that it appeared to me strongly on this occasion, as on many others, that the British mechanic had never quite done justice to his proverbial ingenuity in the matter of fastenings to passengers' luggage. The wear and tear and incessant violent strains upon the lock of a portmanteau or carpet bag almost always put it out of order before the thing itself is worn out, and as one travels into places where an ununlockable portmanteau is a great nuisance, I think this department of manufacture will admit of improvement.

We found the *Cambria* a much smaller vessel than the *Victoria*, and we had to stow pretty closely; but from the very first step on board we perceived every indication of the controlling presence of a master-mind. Everything was in the most perfect order, and admirable discipline presented itself from one end of the ship to the other. The officers, stewards, &c., were attentive and respectful, the victualling was first-rate, no drunkenness was ever seen on board, and everything was comfortable and satisfactory. This ship was one of the celebrated Cunard line, and had been temporarily chartered by the recently deceased Australian Company. But the Cunard people are so tenacious of their character for comfort and accommodation, that in chartering their vessels they

stipulate for provisioning them themselves. The consequence is that everything is good and well attended to, and during the few pleasant days we spent on board this vessel between Alexandria and Malta, not only was no complaint ever heard, but the passengers were in a sort of perpetual extacy of satisfaction and self-gratulation. And upon the arrival of the vessel in Southampton, an address was presented to the Captain of so flattering a character, as to himself, his officers, his ship, and everything about him, that the worthy man blushed the deepest mulberry at the warmth of the eulogia. There is some doubt as to whether Cunards will tender for the Australian mail contract now shortly to be entered into, but depend upon it if they do, and succeed in getting it, it will be soon one of the most satisfactorily administered services in the world. And we shall have facilities afforded for transit between England and Australia which will set your whole population agog for the overland trip; and Ceylon, Aden, Egypt, Malta, and Marseilles, will be "familiar in our mouths as household words."

From this time forward everything went as well as could be wished. We skimmed along the smooth waters of the Mediterranean at the rate of ten to eleven knots. We had no foul weather or other *contretemps* of any sort. On the afternoon of the third day from Alexandria we came in sight of the island of Malta, and soon after steamed in under its tremendous ranges of fortifications, and came to anchor in the harbour. Here a very smart little

vessel, the *Wye*, was waiting to convey the Marseilles portion of the mail and passengers to that port; and, after an hour's scamper up and down the steep streets of Valetta, and a hurried visit to an armoury of the old knights of Jerusalem, and to the very beautiful and interesting old church of St. John, we were ordered on board our new vessel, preparatory to a start. A delay of an hour occurred, as we received notice to wait for an Indian mail then coming into port; and meantime we found ample amusement in watching Maltese life in the harbour, and in observing the feats of a parcel of capital swimmers, who swarmed round the ship, with loud cries of "Good gentlemen, please throw money for dive." Throwing a threepenny bit as far as one could, so as to give it a fair start, these active fellows invariably caught it before it got beyond their reach. When I first heard of this I thought it impossible, as I fancied that the money would sink too rapidly; but the fact is, it does not sink edgewise, but flickers backward and forward on its flat surface, so as to descend rather slowly. As our small change became short, they began to give us better value for our money, and dived right under the ship for the threepenny bit; and as even this began to pall upon the appetite, two of them jumped together, one on the shoulders of the other, and came up on the other side at the same low rate. The appearance of the men gliding upwards through the clear blue water from so great a depth was peculiar enough, and I did not regret my expenditure "for dive."

The Maltese are something like the Portuguese—

with bright black eyes, and rather broad faces and high cheek bones. The eyes of the children struck me as particularly fine and expressive. The island is mainly a barren rock, although the shops seemed well provided with flowers and fruits, and both people and cattle looked well fed. The streets of Valetta, running towards the great ridge along which the town is built, are the steepest that can be conceived, discarding all pretence of a smooth surface, and adopting, instead, the unadulterated stair. Everywhere about you find so many reminiscences of the old knights of Jerusalem, by whom the island was possessed, that I felt rather ashamed of knowing so little about them. They seem to have been a fine martial set of old fellows, very brave and determined, and acting with great precision up to a particular code of their own, in which, perhaps, like that of our modern soldiers, simple bravery was elevated into the highest heroism, and considered an ample set-off for whole crowds of ill qualities in other directions. About thirty of our passengers came by Marseilles, those with families preferring to go round to Southampton, without further trouble of transhipment. Off Malta the Mediterranean squadron, under Admiral Lyons, was cruising, and we watched the evolutions of the little fleet with much interest.

Since leaving Aden I have not spoken of the natural productions of the several countries, which present themselves to the sea-going traveller with an amount of interest little appreciated by the man who stays at home. At Suez we met dates, apricots, small

and tasteless, and little, rather sour, apples; at Cairo, peaches, small but very well flavoured, apricots, and oranges; at Malta, oranges, cherries, and small early plums. It was near midsummer, be it remembered, and these things will, of course, vary with the season. We began from this time to notice that it was near midsummer by the remarkably rapid lengthening of the days as we went to the north. The sun had set about six when we left Australia. It set at the same time all the way to Ceylon, and along the line, and it was only as we made northing to Suez and across Egypt that we began to notice the change; but as it was light in England till past nine, we added six hours to the length of the day within an interval of nine days.

The *Wye* is a well-appointed little boat, very fast and pleasant in smooth water, although she is of a "lively" disposition which I suspect would induce her to kick about a good deal on rather small provocation. However, she treated us well enough. Once more we glided over the placid waters of the Mediterranean, running down the southern coast of Sicily, passing between Corsica and Sardinia, and seeing in the distance the birthplace of the elder Napoleon. We steamed into Marseilles harbour on the morning of the 14th June, about a fortnight behind our time indeed, but very well pleased with the latter part of our voyage.

And here, considering the length to which these letters have extended, I feel inclined to stop. Yet is the passage through France so interesting a portion of the overland route, that the description I have

endeavoured to give would not be complete without allusion to it, and I will therefore trespass on your patience with one more letter.

Twenty years ago Marseilles appeared to me a very nasty place. With so little tide in the Mediterranean that the water in the harbour is never renewed, the accumulations from a large city are sufficient to be productive of most abominable smells and other nuisances, and one is not surprised to find that occasional monuments erected in the streets are intended to commemorate the services of self-sacrificing men during the days when plague decimated the population. Marseilles, since those days, is greatly improved, although still towards the lower part of the town one is apt to be beset by most unsavoury odours.

Your readers will not require to be told that this is one of the principal maritime cities of France, commanding nearly the whole trade of the Mediterranean and exporting enormous quantities of wines, fruits, dye-stuffs, and other valuable articles. As may be expected, signs of wealth abound on all sides. Nearly all the better class of inhabitants occupy villas in the outskirts, which, from the high land ever looking out upon the sea, presents very favourable sites for country residences. The population of Marseilles has always been rather noted for its turbulent character, and to eyes accustomed to the peaceful aspect of your streets, there was something almost startling in the observation that the lower windows of most of the better houses were protected by strong iron bars.

Amongst the principal characteristics of Marseilles are the beautiful avenues which intersect the town, and the generally well-planted condition of the streets and "places." As the proper planting in the streets of towns is a subject upon which I have always entertained very strong impressions, and particularly in connection with the cities in Australia, you will, I am sure, excuse my enlarging a little upon it. Here is a city corresponding in its latitude almost precisely with Melbourne, and very nearly resembling it in climate; and yet, while your high-dried, hot, and shadeless streets parch the very life out of your population during the summer months, the good people of this city transact their business under the shade of beautiful groves. Why is this? And will your municipal authorities ever learn that a fine tree can easily be grown, even in a paved street, and that it exercises an almost miraculous effect in modifying the disagreeables of a large city?

I have paid some attention to this subject of planting since I landed here, afterwards in Paris, and after that in the parks of London, and the result of my observations is altogether in favour of the French. In this, as in many other things, there is a ready adaptation on the part of this quick-witted people of means to ends, from which the stubborn nature of the Englishman revolts.

The tree far most generally adopted for the purpose is the plane. Being handsome, of reasonably quick growth, and during the summer months highly umbrageous, it seems a very suitable tree. Here, as

well as in Paris and in London, there are a few lime-trees and elms, but the plane seems the principal favourite. In the south of France, when they wish to plant a public place they do not put in a little miserable seedling, which is an eyesore for years, never reaches the size of surrounding trees, and requires paternal care long after it is put in. On the contrary, they head down a good sized, healthy tree, with a trunk of five or six inches in diameter, and transplant that. The tree is a post as soon as it is put in, and quite able to resist ordinary outward attacks without shelter of any kind. In the second year it is handsome and thriving, capable of casting some shade, and rapidly assuming the appearance of a mature tree. In Paris they improve even upon this. They transplant a still larger tree. They pad the stem ten feet high with moss, bound round with some water-proof stuff, at the top of which is a metal lip like the edge of a milk-dish. At certain intervals a man comes round with a water-cart, provided with a small force-pump, pours a few buckets of water into this receiver, and the tree is kept constantly moist and cool throughout its whole surface. It cannot help growing. I see the poor spindling things which they are still putting in the London Parks, and I am at no loss in deciding as to which nation shows the most intelligent spirit.

You have a man amongst you—Dr. Mueller—as capable as any man in the world of doing justice to this duty, when it is once recognised by your municipalities. I conjure him to look ahead of these immediate days, and to set now about providing ample supplies of this

beautiful tree for such transplantation as I have described, when once your corporations become properly impressed with their duty in providing for the comfort, ease, and health, of their constituents. He will know whether the French or English system is the right one, and by his aid we may within these five years find Collins-street a grove.

But widely awake as the people of Marseilles seem to be to the advantage of the tree, they appear curiously unconscious of the comfort of another great desideratum of the hot climate—the verandah. Scarcely any of the houses are provided with this luxury. The window-eyes in their white faces stare at the hot sun without the comfort of the usual eyebrow which the suburbs of Melbourne present at every step. If some good genius, at once all-powerful and beneficent, could wander over the surface of the earth, selecting whatever was admirable in each place, and compelling each other place to adopt it, what a much more habitable and delightful world this would rapidly become.

The wealth of Marseilles is well illustrated by the magnificence of its *cafés*, restaurants, &c. In this respect it almost even excels Paris itself. Opposite to the hotel at which we stayed was a concert-room, to which the admission was free, which was one of the most splendid and tasteful things I ever saw. Of great dimensions, and the fittings and embellishments of the richest kind, the townspeople resort here by thousands of an evening, drinking beer, coffee, &c., and smoking at their ease. The singing and instrumental

music were pretty good, but the principal attraction was the splendour of the general appearance. The backward half of the room was fitted up to resemble a regular forest of the banana, the tall leaves of that most beautiful plant sprouting to the very ceiling. On each leaf sat a little composition bird, and from the beak of each bird came a little jet of gas. The back of the room and the sides were mirrors from top to bottom, and these reflecting *ad infinitum* bananas, birds, and jets, quite confused the eye as to what was real and what reflection, and gave a curious extensiveness to the scene, populated as it was with crowds of gaily-dressed people—for to these places respectable females accompany their friends without the slightest suspicion of impropriety.

Nothing struck us more in this neighbourhood than the size and goodness of the mules—another hint which might be advantageously developed with you. The mule here is usually a finer animal even than the horse. They grow sixteen and seventeen hands high, with every sign of health and power; and as they are hardier than the horse, and much longer lived, it is well worth asking why they are not bred extensively with you. By some means they often breed them here as strongly made, and with as thick legs, as the ordinary cart-horse; many a mule in the south of France, but for his ears, being quite capable of passing muster as an average Clydesdale.

Starting from Marseilles by rail on the morning after arrival, we reached Lyons the same afternoon. The country is very beautiful and highly cultivated



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the whole way. The mulberry trees rather puzzled us by their appearance, and as we journeyed along, I had many arguments with the worthy chairman of your Farmers' Society as to the particular process which could have given them so desolate a look. Many of the larger trees throughout the whole country, in which they were very numerous, were not only without a leaf, but had not a twig. The old, gnarled branches, spread out on all sides in all the nakedness of actual death, presented a most singular feature in the landscape. On inquiry, we found that after having gathered the leaves two or three times during the spring to feed the silkworms, it was the practice about midsummer to cut back the year's shoot to the original branch; by way, I suppose, of provoking new shoots of additional vigor. To this process the trees had just been subjected, resulting in the bleak and wintry effect I have described. Another constant object in the landscape accompanying us through France was the Lombardy poplar, a tree, elegant enough when surrounded by other timber of wider proportions, but wearying from its steeple-like monotony when forced too long or too prominently upon the observation.

Railroads are much alike. Those in France seem pretty well managed, maintaining a fair speed, and affording reasonable comfort and regularity. The refreshments at the halting places are abundant and excellent, and tossed upon the plate with undiminished rapidity from dish after dish during the quarter of an hour's stay; they provoked a good deal of amusement

among such of our Australians as had never before been in France.

Lyons is not a pleasant place to the traveller. Manufacturing towns seldom are. The artisan spirit pervades everything with a style and vigor so peculiarly its own, that the mere sojourner is apt to suspect insolence, when in reality he only sees independence. The habit of self-assertion is often really in excess, and is apt to assume unamiable features, from which the stranger naturally recoils. It will not be always so. Excessive manifestation now, looking often too like rudeness, is but the first instinct of a still recent enfranchisement. The man assumes all he can, because he wishes to vindicate his right to all he knows he ought to claim. As his position becomes thoroughly recognised and understood both by himself and others, so will his gentler qualities expand, his whole nature will improve, and the day will arrive in which your hammerman will become in spirit and behaviour as true a gentleman as your duke; and the man who dares to taint the bright truths and tremendous results of a genuine democracy with one trace of anything that is vulgar, coarse, or offensive in any way will be recognised as the most pestilent and mischievous scoundrel upon earth.

Meantime the casual traveller passes without much regret from the manufacturing town; and we started for Paris the following morning with a strong appreciation of the greatness of Lyons, but an almost equally decided impression that we did not much like it. We reached Paris in the afternoon, and after the

usual scuffle and waiting for our luggage, which is inseparable from the French system of always charging for any surplus over a very small amount, we found ourselves at our respective hotels.

As I like to see whatever is great and novel, I took up my quarters at the Hôtel du Louvre, a gigantic establishment in the Rue Rivoli, recently erected by a company. Everything here was on the most prodigious scale, the hotel being built round a large court-yard, and range above range of galleries affording access to between 600 and 700 chambers, let at various rates, in proportion to one's willingness to ascend. The style of embellishment, the size of the saloons, and the furniture and other appointments, were on the most thoroughly palatial scale; and the great dining-room, prepared at 6 o'clock for a *table d'hôte* for hundreds of people, was one of the grandest things I ever saw. I do not know whether the house pays; probably not, as managed by a company; but when I was there it was pretty full, and ought to have been paying well.

As I had made up my mind to get to England before the *Cambria*, which we left at Malta, could reach Southampton, I had to limit myself to one day in Paris, and amidst the many wonderful things of this city one cannot make much progress in a day. But my passage through France and a little observation of its capital, tended strongly to confirm an impression that had long been growing in my mind, to the effect that the present Emperor was a very wrongly-judged man amongst us that he was in

reality one of the greatest men of the present day, and the very best ruler France ever had. I have long been sick of the hurdy-gurdy articles with which the Press is filled about "oppressed nationalities," "Imperial despots," and all that kind of thing; and, staunch admirer as I am of free institutions, I know that liberty is a plant of very slow growth, if it is to be a permanent one, and that not one nation on the Continent is fit for real freedom, or would retain or manage it if granted to-morrow. And therefore this cant about the despots always seems to me mere rubbish. "Is a man a true patriot?"—I ask. "Does he love his country? And is he labouring to serve her?" "If not actually giving his country liberty now, is he with reasonable speed paving the way to freedom?" And to all these questions I feel inclined, in the case of Louis Napoleon, to give an emphatic answer in the affirmative. His love for France may have some trace of selfishness in it; but where do we find patriotism absolutely unalloyed? In England? No. In Australia? Bah! Let your perfect patriot only throw the first stone, and Louis Napoleon will go unpelted. Of the means by which he attained the throne I think as strongly as you do; but the people as a whole have forgiven that, and why ought we outsiders to be so tenacious?

The man's character is misunderstood. He is the Napoleon of peace. It is his mission, so far as one man can, to Anglify French institutions; and he shows his wisdom in not allowing the process to go on with too great rapidity. Let him escape the bullet

of the assassin for another twenty years, and he will leave a name behind him of which any Frenchman might be jealous. The wonders that he is now doing for France, and for Paris in particular, must be seen to be believed. Smashing his way with true Napoleonic decision through whole miles of filthy old rookeries, he is letting the sun and air in upon his capital in some of the finest and straightest streets in the world. We English traduce him, and talk with terror of his coming to London. Ah! if this much-dreaded invasion could be accomplished without bloodshed, one man like this would do more for London in a year than all the complicated machinery of parliaments and corporations will accomplish in half a century. Let any dispassionate man look at the two cities, and at what has been done for them during the last twenty years, and then let him abuse Louis Napoleon and eulogise parliaments if he can.

I went to his new market, in the very centre of Paris; and if a work like this does not entitle a man to thanks as a benefactor of his species I do not know what does. Of very great extent, each department of produce being accommodated with hundreds of stalls, you ramble from the fruit-market to the flower-market, from dairy produce to poultry and fish, over acres and acres of ground, every inch applied most economically. Below, in cool and cleanly cellars, reserve stores, corresponding with the stalls, supply them as fast as produce is sold and removed. A railroad communicating with the suburban rail, and also with that to Strasburg, brings up produce into

the very cellars themselves, and by the same means is every particle of filth swept off into the country to become manure. The department devoted to the sale of fish is a study of itself. Each stall, side by side with the slab upon which the sea-fish is exposed for sale, is supplied with one or more little tanks into which jets of pure water are constantly playing, and in these the fish of rivers and ponds are swimming as healthily, and apparently as much at their ease, as if they had never been caught. A woman will have a cistern of carp three or four pounds weight, a cistern of eels, a cistern of crayfish—every fish alive and healthy—and she gets this for a weekly payment of a franc or two, water included. Talk of despots indeed! Where do your free institutions give boons like these to your general people? In London? In Melbourne? Nay, look around fairly and see! Depend upon it the English grievously misunderstand Louis Napoleon, and that he is slandered and belied habitually in quarters from which he has the best right to look for sympathy and encouragement.

And this is not only grossly unjust and cruel, but impolitic in the highest degree. If anything will drive a man to wrong courses, it is a systematic and persistent depreciation of his acts, and distrustfulness of his motives, and if ever Louis Napoleon do fracture the *entente cordiale*, and come down upon England at a critical time, I for one should always think that she had richly deserved it.

A ramble through the picture galleries and magnificent salons of the Luxembourg and the Louvre, a

hurried glance at a church or two, a drive in the Champs Elysées and the Bois de Boulogne; and away, away by the all-pervading rail for the white cliffs of Old England!

They came in sight at last; the home of one's childhood—not seen for well nigh twenty years. Yet—shall I confess it?—my feelings at seeing them were not what I expected. I gave it a fair trial. I stood aloof from my fellow passengers, and laboured for very shame to pump up a little sentiment. But it would not do. I could not conceal from myself that I did not feel for them at all proportionately to what I had felt, after much shorter absences, on again coming within sight of your Station Peak or Dandenong Ranges. With every love for my native country, and great admiration for very many things about her, I begin to fear that such of my sympathies as are not Australian are cosmopolitan, and not exclusively British. The land of birth is a matter of accident—the land of adoption is a matter of deliberate selection; and having adopted Victoria before her whole population amounted to what she now crams into a single street, and having watched her growth day by day from that time to this, she is the wife of my mature years, while England is the mother of my infancy: and, if blamed for my unfilial conduct, I can but quote the abundant precedents by which I am surrounded in those who recognise the former as the closer and more tender tie.

Skimming amongst the fleet of shipping across the channel from Boulogne, in a little steamer whose

fourteen and a half knots an hour contrasted rather strangely with the speed of the old tub in which the voyage was commenced, I landed at Folkestone, and started directly for London.

I should like to have given my first impressions of Old England ; but it is impossible ; for in an evil hour I had stumbled upon "Bradshaw," and my first journey in the old country was in a thick mist. I wanted to make my way as fast as possible to Southampton, for which purpose I consulted him, and I have not been accustomed to give up a contest with a little bit of light literature of this kind. But "Bradshaw" was too much for me. I could not fathom his meaning. An asterisk glared upon me from one column, to which I could find no clue whatever. I was distracted by an italic *f* here, and a small capital FORTY-FIVE in another place, and gradually sank under the hopeless task. I have a vague recollection of a country vividly green, of the smell of newly-mown hay, of belts and groups of trees more rounded and ample in their developments than those of France ; of homesteads snug, lovely, and apparently prosperous ; of birds singing sweetly as we stopped at the several stations ; of hares and pheasants feeding in the fields ; and of very broad staring on the part of everybody at the white felt hat covered with muslin, which had rendered me good service in the Red Sea, and brought down cries of "voila le Bedouin" from the rude little boys of Paris. But the spell of the enchanter was upon me. I was helpless in the hands of "Bradshaw," and under the persecution of this sixpenny fiend,



Freder & Galtoun

London, E. C.

OUT SHEEP STATION.

found I could exercise no independent judgement upon the aspect of my native land. I have mastered him since, and shaken off the whilom terrors of his name. But, as a conclusion to these long sketches, I should conjure such of my fellow-colonists as decide upon visiting the mother country to take warning by my fate, and beware of the beguilements of this dangerous power. Let no man look at "Bradshaw" till he has been a week in England, and then only under the guidance of an intelligent friend.

I have told my tale. The overland route from Australia to England is a delightful trip, chequered with serious disagreeables. It is occasionally hot and otherwise uncomfortable, but at which end of the journey is the weather always faultless? With good ships and a well-administered service, this long voyage would become little more than a prolonged nautical pic-nic. It will increase in interest every day; and, as the way becomes what has been well and quaintly called "Macadamised," the Australians will swarm backwards and forwards along this line, till the question will be, not who has, but who has not, visited the mother country by the overland route?

APPENDIX.

IN the preceding pages the reader has been introduced to some of the least known and most remote districts of the Australian Group of Colonies. But as the information there briefly supplied will doubtless engender in some minds a desire for further knowledge of the capacities, progress, and general position of these interesting dependencies, a few statistical returns are annexed, from which a tolerably accurate impression of the condition of the more important Colonies of Australia may be gathered.

Prepared for publication in Victoria, the sketches contain little direct information as to that, the most populous, the wealthiest, and most progressive of the group.

But as that Colony now contains nearly half the population of Australasia, as its wonderful gold discoveries have invested it with peculiar interest, and moreover, as statistical information respecting it has been more ample and more readily accessible to the writer, a great proportion of the following tables refer more immediately to Victoria. The information derived and remarks made are applicable, with some modifications, to most of the sister Colonies.

A general idea of the comparative areas, population, exports, imports, revenue, and public debts of the several Colonies may be formed by a glance at the annexed table, the details being more carefully elaborated in those which follow.

COMPARATIVE STATISTICS OF THE AUSTRALIAN COLONIES.

Colonies.	Square Miles.	Population, 1868.	Exports, 1857.	Imports, 1857.	Public Revenue, 1857.	Public Debt, 1857.
New South Wales.....	450,000	315,000	£4,012,000	£6,729,400	£1,196,301	£2,200,000
Victoria	86,801	482,000	15,079,512	17,256,209	3,153,297	2,176,780
South Australia.....	300,000	115,000	1,958,572	1,623,022	451,526	555,000
West Australia	80,000	17,000	60,000	150,000	42,000	8,688
Tasmania.....	22,500	82,500	1,354,555	1,271,087	183,978	223,680
New Zealand	121,875	55,000	400,000	709,000	237,245	500,000
TOTAL	1,061,176	1,066,500	£22,864,739	£27,738,718	£5,264,347	£5,664,148

The population is exclusive of aborigines, who, in New Zealand, still number about 60,000. All but 16 individuals, have perished in Tasmania. There are still about 1,700 in Victoria, and proportionately small numbers in the other colonies.

The returns, under some heads, will be found to differ slightly from those in subsequent tables. This difference arises from the totals being calculated in the above tables to more recent dates.

EXPORTS OF THE PRINCIPAL ARTICLES OF AUSTRALIAN PRODUCE in the Year 1857.

	Wool.	Gold.	Copper.	Agricultural Produce.
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>	£	£
New South Wales.....	21,000,000	148,126		88,000
Victoria	17,176,920	2,757,047		
South Australia.....	6,772,560	} 3,000	438,035	633,218
West Australia	650,000			
Tasmania	5,697,492			
New Zealand.....	3,071,542	12,000		100,000
Total.....	54,368,514	2,920,173	438,035	1,252,791

VALUE OF BRITISH AND IRISH PRODUCE

Exported to the Australian Colonies.

1843	£1,302,482	1854	11,931,352
1851	2,807,356	1855	6,278,966
1852	4,222,203	1856	9,912,575
1853	14,513,700	1857	11,626,146

EXPORTS OF BRITISH PRODUCE FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM. In the Year 1857.

To United States... £18,760,812	„ Holland	6,377,026
„ British East Indies 11,648,341	„ France	6,199,792
„ Australia..... 11,626,146	„ Brazil	5,447,566
„ Hanse Towns ... 9,606,212	„ British N. America	4,325,645
„ Victoria (alone) 6,630,064		

COMPARATIVE EMIGRATION FROM GREAT BRITAIN
In the year 1858.

United States	96,670 equal to 71·15 per cent.
Australia and New Zealand	21,486 „ 15·81 „
Brazils	6,089 „ 4·48 „
Cape of Good Hope	2,564 „ 1·88 „
Canada	2,383 „ 1·75 „
Chili	132 „ 0·09 „
Buenos Ayres	114 „ 0·08 „
Other places.....	6,427 „ 4·76 „
Total	135,865 „ 100·00 „

One of the greatest drawbacks to the prosperity of the Australian Colonies is to be found in the disproportion of the sexes. This evil has been greatly aggravated by the discovery of gold in Victoria, which has led to a vast immigration of enterprising young men, willing to risk their own comfort in an endeavour to improve their condition, but unaccompanied in their change by a due proportion of wives, sisters, &c., to keep up the balance of the sexes.

In the year 1857, the latest period for which we have reliable returns, the proportions in the several Colonies were as follows, and in Victoria in particular the disproportion in respect of females seems still to be increasing. When we observe that the balance in favour of males is actually 164,628, and recollect how large a proportion consist of adults, we may well consider how far the lot of tens of thousands of women in the mother country would be improved by emigrating to a country in which they are so badly wanted.

	Males.	Females.	Surplus Males.
Victoria	260,910	145,667	115,243
New South Wales	161,882	124,991	36,891
South Australia ...	53,086	51,622	1,464
Tasmania	45,916	34,886	11,030
Total.....	521,794	357,166	164,628

The commerce of the Australian colonies is well exhibited by the progress and prosperous condition of its banking institutions. These are now numerous, and their transactions very large, and generally of a highly profitable character.

JOINT STOCK BANKS IN AUSTRALIA.

Name.	When Established.	Number of Partners.	Paid-up Capital.	Reserve Fund.	Paid up per Share.	Last Dividend.	Number of Branches
			£	£	£	pr ct	
*Bank of Aus- tralasia	1834	938	900,000	401,778	40	20	17
†*Bank of New South Wales }	1817	345	500,000	150,000	20	20	17
*English, Scot- tish, and Aus- tralian Char- tered Bank... }	1852	488	500,000	10,311	20	6	2
*London Char- tered Bank... }	1852	843	700,000	12,673	20	6	8
*Oriental Bank Corporation }	1851	950	1,256,325	252,000	all	10	11
*Union Bank of Australia ... }	1837	1,200	820,000	286,763	25	20	22
†Bank of Victoria	1852	400	500,000	52,500	5	10	13
†Colonial Bank of Austral- asia	1856	800	312,500	30,000	5	10	7
†National Bank of Austral- asia	1858	Still in process of formation.					

* Those marked thus have offices in London.

† Those marked thus are colonial institutions.

There has been a tendency of late years to the establishment of banks with a local proprietary, it being held that the large dividends annually paid might be better retained and appropriated amongst colonial shareholders than remitted for the benefit of distant capitalists. The paid-up capital of the English banks is rarely employed in the colonies, as the deposits are generally sufficient for business purposes.

The rapid increase in the transactions of the banks

since the discovery of gold is shown in the following table; and the large amount under the head of deposits will attract attention, when it is remembered that these are principally composed of comparatively small sums—the accumulations of the recently rich. Merchants and other experienced capitalists find too ready a use for their money in a colony in which the rate of interest is from 8 to 10 per cent., to keep large balances at their bankers. It is found that the great bulk of the deposits is composed of sums varying from £200 to £600.

TABLE SHOWING THE RELATIVE POSITION OF THE BANKS IN VICTORIA, in the Years 1851 and 1858.

	1851.	1858.
LIABILITIES.		
Notes in Circulation	£ 180,058	£ 2,121,588
Bills	10,497	79,902
Deposits	822,253	6,017,446
Total Liabilities.....	£1,012,810	8,218,938
ASSETS.		
Coin	321,824	2,065,176
Bullion		533,139
Landed Property.....	19,982	351,444
Government Securities.....		286,865
Debts due to Banks, including Notes, Bills of Exchange, and all Stock and Funded Debt	745,955	7,562,428
Total Assets	£1,087,726	10,799,053
CAPITAL ACCOUNT.		
Paid up Capital	1,862,280	5,423,694
Amount of last Dividends.....	65,320	354,333
Reserved Profits, after declar- ing such Dividends	158,051	1,228,347

VICTORIA.

Area of the Colony 86,801 square miles, or 55,571,840 acres, or almost exactly as large as England, Scotland, and Wales united.

POPULATION OF VICTORIA, According to the Census, March, 1857.

	Aborigines.	Chinese.	Colonists.	Total.
Males	} 1,768	25,401	237,761	263,162
Females		23	145,813	145,836
Total.....	1,768	25,424	383,574	410,766

DISTRIBUTION OF POPULATION, 1857.

Melbourne and its Suburbs.....	92,300
Geelong	23,338
Rural Districts	109,000
Gold Fields.....	166,550
Residue	19,578
	<hr/> 410,766 <hr/>

BIRTHS, DEATHS, MARRIAGES, AND POPULATION OF VICTORIA,

Up to 31st December of each Year from 1851 to 1857.

	Births.	Deaths.	Marriages.	Population.
1851	3,049	1,165	1,023	83,350
1852	3,756	2,105	1,958	148,627
1853	5,000	5,000	... ..	198,496
1854	7,542	6,261	3,765	273,865
1855	11,941	6,603	3,846	319,379
1856	14,406	5,732	4,116	*348,460
1857	17,490	7,455	4,524	*463,135

* Estimated increase since the census in March, 1857.

NUMBERS OF RESPECTIVE CREEDS,
According to the Census, 1857.

Church of England	175,418
Presbyterians	65,935
Wesleyans	28,305
Other Protestants	27,521
Roman Catholics	77,351
Jews	2,208
Mahommedans and Pagans.....	27,254
Residue	6,774
	410,766

PERSONS AND PLACES OF WORSHIP,
Belonging to the principal Religious Denominations in Victoria in
1851 and 1857.

	1851.		1857.	
	Persons.	Churches.	Persons.	Churches.
Church of England.....	37,453	7	175,418	99
Presbyterians	11,608	8	65,935	55
Wesleyan Methodists...	4,988	5	28,305	192
Other Protestants	4,313	2	27,521	59
Roman Catholics.....	18,014	5	77,351	64
Jews	364	1	2,208	4
Mahometans and Pagans	201		27,254	
Residue.....	424		6,774	
Total.....	77,345	28	410,766	473

The State sets apart £50,000 a year for the support of religion, which is distributed amongst such of the denominations as are willing to accept it, in proportion to their respective numbers on the census paper.

Although this grant is much objected to, its action would seem to be beneficial, inasmuch as the population having increased between 1851-57 rather more than five-fold, the churches for their accommodation have increased rather more than *sixteen-fold*.

STATE OF EDUCATION IN VICTORIA.

	MALES.						FEMALES.						TOTAL.		
	Under 21.			Above 21.			Under 21.			Above 21.			Males.	Fems.	Both Sexes
	Cannot Read.	Read only.	Read and Write.	Cannot Read.	Read only.	Read and Write.	Cannot Read.	Read only.	Read and Write.	Cannot Read.	Read only.	Read and Write.			
1851, Population exclusive of aborigines.	8,915	3,183	5,529	3,140	2,777	22,658	8,434	3,396	5,340	1,668	2,201	10,104	46,202	31,143	77,345
1857, Population exclusive of aborigines and Chinese.	33,995	10,282	28,836	9,113	9,468	138,441	33,874	11,621	26,657	5,727	10,382	35,452	237,761	145,813	383,574

In the census of 1857 the ages and education of 9,756 persons were not returned.

EDUCATION IN VICTORIA.

	Number of Schools.		Number of Scholars.	
	1851.	1857.	1851.	1857.
Denominational.....	74	399	5,208	24,973
National	6	101	261	6,113
Private.....	49	138	1,601	3,437
Totals.....	129	638	7,070	34,523

The annual sum voted for education by the State is £125,000 for primary schools, and £9,000 for the University of Melbourne.

The Public Library opened free to all at a cost of £19,400 contains 9,000 volumes, to which additions are constantly made; and was visited in 1857 by 63,684 visitors.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF VICTORIA,

From 1852 to 1857;

SPECIFYING THE TWO PRINCIPAL ITEMS OF EXPORTS.

Years.	Total Imports.	Exports.			
		Wool.	Gold.	Other Articles.	Total Exports.
	£	£	£	£	£
1852	4,069,742	1,062,787	6,135,728	253,034	7,451,549
1853	15,842,637	1,651,871	8,644,529	765,143	11,061,543
1854	17,742,998	1,629,934	8,255,550	1,901,742	11,787,226
1855	11,568,904	1,390,621	10,904,150	1,174,928	13,469,194
1856	14,962,269	1,506,613	11,943,458	2,039,689	15,489,760
1857	17,256,209	1,335,642	10,987,591	2,756,279	15,079,512

COMPARATIVE VALUE OF IMPORTS INTO VICTORIA,
In the years 1851 and 1857, from all parts of the World.

Year.	From British Possessions.			From United States.	From Foreign States.	Total.
	From the United Kingdom.	From North America.	From other British Colonies.			
	£	£	£	£	£	£
1851	784,904	...	239,344	122	67,987	1,056,437
1857	10,122,201	13,111	5,588,730	782,846	749,321	17,256,209

GOLD EXPORTED FROM VICTORIA.

Years.	Quantity.	Value.
	<i>ozs.</i>	£
1851	145,137	438,777
1852	1,988,526	6,135,728
1853	2,497,723	8,644,529
1854	2,144,699	8,255,550
1855	2,751,535	10,904,150
1856	2,985,991	11,943,458
1857	2,762,460	10,987,591
1858	2,504,812	10,019,248
Total.....	17,780,883	67,329,031

This makes an average export for the last five years and a half of nearly 110 tons of gold per annum.

GOLD YIELD OF DIFFERENT DISTRICTS.

	1856.	1857.
	<i>ozs.</i>	<i>ozs.</i>
Castlemaine.....	372,297	315,777
Sandhurst	599,101	525,018
Maryborough	320,709	355,750
Ballarat	1,010,269	948,709
Beechworth	334,708	345,349
Total.....	2,637,084	2,490,603
Brought down by Escorts	2,594,503	2,478,826
Exported	3,007,281	2,757,047

ABSTRACT OF THE ESTIMATED REVENUE OF VICTORIA,

For the Year, 1859.

	£	s.	d.
Customs	1,777,000	0	0
Gold	60,000	0	0
Ports and Harbours	26,000	0	0
Proceeds of Sale of Public Lands ...	750,000	0	0
Licenses	342,000	0	0
Postage	97,000	0	0
Fees	59,000	0	0
Fines and Forfeitures	15,000	0	0
Miscellaneous	258,000	0	0
	£3,384,000	0	0
Probable balance from 1858.....	307,879	16	6
Total.....	£3,691,879	16	6

PUBLIC REVENUE IN SUCCESSIVE YEARS.

1856.	18 57.	1858.	1859.
£	£	£	
3,039,375	3,153,297	3,402,000	3,384,000

There is something very striking in the fact of so large a revenue as the above being derivable from a population of about 500,000. It amounts to above £6 15s. per head, including the land fund, or above £5 5s. exclusive of that item.

This is nearly double the amount of taxation per head raised in England, and yet it is practically unfelt. And it has been urged that if Great Britain could raise the taxation of her population to the same rate for a time, the National Debt itself would be paid off in eight or ten years.

One reason for taxation in Victoria being so little

grievous is to be found in the admirable tariff under which the Customs duties are collected. Only about a dozen articles are taxed, all else being absolutely free. Thus the people are not irritated by the idea of omnipresent taxation, and but a moderate percentage of the impost is expended upon the collection.

The tariff, with some few alterations, has stood the test of several years experience, and on the whole, may be considered to have been highly successful. And in the event of still larger sums being necessary for the public service, a little increase might readily be borne upon such articles as wine, beer, tea, coffee, sugar, &c., an addition to the duties on which would be attended with no additional expense of collection.

At the same time, the very large consumption of such articles per head consequent upon a very moderate impost, furnishes some valuable suggestions to the skilful public financier, which might perhaps be profitably studied in reference to British taxation.

TARIFF OF VICTORIA.

IMPORT DUTIES.

		s.	d.
Spirits	per gallon	10	0
Wine.....	„	2	0
Beer and Cider	„	0	6
Tobacco and Snuff	per lb.	2	0
Cigars	„	3	0
Tea.....	per lb.	0	6
Coffee and Chicory	„	0	2
Sugar.....	per cwt.	6	0
Molasses and Treacle	„	3	0
Opium	per lb.	10	0

EXPORT DUTY.

Gold	per oz.	2	6
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200 REVENUE FROM CUSTOMS.—LIVE STOCK.

The profitableness of this simple tariff is well exhibited in the following table.

It will be found that taking the population at 500,000, each colonist contributes about £1 12*s.* per annum on the article of spirits, 3*s.* on wine, 4*s.* 7*d.* on beer, 6*s.* 10*d.* on tobacco, cigars, &c., 5*s.* on tea, 1*s.* on coffee, and 5*s.* 2*d.* on sugar.

REVENUE DERIVED FROM CUSTOMS IN VICTORIA, 1859.

IMPORT DUTIES.	
Spirits	£797,000
Wine	70,000
Beer and Cider	115,000
Tobacco and Snuff.....	142,000
Cigars	30,000
Tea	125,000
Coffee	24,000
Sugar and Molasses	129,000
Opium	5,000
EXPORT DUTY.	
On Gold	340,000
	<u>£1,777,000</u>

LIVE STOCK IN VICTORIA,

In the years 1851 and 1858.

	1851.	1858.
Horses.....	21,219	55,683
Cattle	378,806	614,537
Sheep	6,032,783	4,766,322

The decrease in the number of sheep is to be attributed partly to the immense demand for butcher's meat consequent upon the rapid increase of population, partly to the improved profitableness of cattle stations, partly perhaps to the ravages of the scab, while labour

was difficult of attainment in consequence of the migration of the working classes to the gold fields.

MACHINERY EMPLOYED ON THE GOLD FIELDS OF VICTORIA.

Steam Engines	282
Puddling Machines	4,256
Quartz Crushing Machines	133
Toms, Sluices, and Dams	908
Whips and Whims	508
Horse Machines.....	66
Water Wheels	200
Boring Machines	13
Smelting Machines	1

VICTORIAN RAILWAYS.

	Miles.
Melbourne to Sandridge	2½
With branch to St. Kilda, length from Junction	2½
Melbourne to Geelong, completed to Williams' Town	40
A line from Melbourne to Sandhurst is in progress	94½
A line from Geelong to Ballarat is also in course of formation	53
These two lines are being constructed by Government at an estimated expense of £4,628,778	

VICTORIA ELECTRIC TELEGRAPH.

The following lines have been already completed.

	Miles.
North-west to Sandhurst	102
North-east to Belvoir, Murray River, putting Melbourne in communication with Sydney	191
West to the South Australia boundary <i>via</i> Geelong, Ballarat, Warnambool, and Portland, and putting Melbourne in communication with Adelaide	336
South to the entrance to the Bay	72½
Total cost of construction	£70,000
Number of Stations	22
Annual expense of working	£18,000

202 COMPARATIVE FERTILITY, AND POSTAL RETURNS.

CORN-PRODUCING POWERS OF VICTORIA.

	Bushels per Acre.					
	Wheat.		Barley.		Oats.	
Victoria, average of the years 1855-6-7...	23	1	30	3	29	3
Tasmania, 1850	16	5	24	2	23	7
*South Australia, 1857	12	0	22	0	25	0
New South Wales, average of 3 years...	15	4	16	7	16	7
State of New York	14	0	16	0	26	0
State of California, 1855	20	0	31	5	20	2

* This must have been a bad year, as the South Australian average of Wheat is about 20 bushels to the acre.

POSTAL STATISTICS OF VICTORIA.

1857.

	Letters.	Newspapers.
Delivery Inland	2,415,933	1,333,439
Delivery Outward	1,484,048	1,648,531

WAGES IN VICTORIA TO DECEMBER, 1858.

WITH RATIONS.

Consisting of 10 lbs. of flour, 12 lbs. of meat, 2 lbs. of sugar, $\frac{1}{4}$ lb. of tea, each person per week.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Married Couples for Farms, Home Stations, &c. per ann.	60	0	0	to	70	0	0
Ditto, for Hotels	70	0	0	to	80	0	0
Shepherds	30	0	0	to	35	0	0
Hut Keepers	26	0	0				
Bullock Drivers.....per week	1	5	0				
Cooks for Hotels, &c.....	1	0	0				
Sheep Washers	1	0	0				
Shearers .....per hundred	0	15	0	to	0	17	0
Ploughmen and Farm Servants per week.....	1	0	0	to	1	5	0
Bush Carpenters	1	10	0				
Gardeners .....per ann.	50	0	0	to	60	0	0
Grooms	50	0	0	to	55	0	0
Able Seamen .....per month	4	10	0	to	5	0	0

WITHOUT RATIONS.

Carpenters for town.....per day	0 12 0	to	0 15 0
Masons, Bricklayers, Plasterers, Blacksmiths .....per day	0 12 0	to	0 15 0
Unskilled Labourers	0 7 6	to	0 8 0
Quarry Men	0 10 0	to	0 12 0
Splitters, post and rails, per 100	0 18 0	to	1 5 0
Fencers, 3-rail .....per rod	0 2 6		

FEMALE SERVANTS.—WITH RATIONS.

Cooks and Laundresses per ann.	35 0 0	to	40 0 0
Housemaids and General Ser- vants	26 0 0	to	30 0 0
Nursemaids	16 0 0	to	26 0 0
Needlewomen	25 0 0	to	30 0 0

Facilities for getting employment depend in some measure upon the season of the year. During winter, less labour is required by the farmers, settlers, &c., and there is occasionally pressure upon the labour markets in the towns. With summer, come shearing, hay-making, harvesting, &c., and employment is more easily obtained.

It is often urged by those who are, for the first time, apprised of the high rate of wages in Australia, that this is compensated for by the extra expense of subsistence. That this is not exactly the case may be seen by the annexed list, in which many things will be found no higher, some actually lower, than in England.

A working man may get comfortable board and lodging in Melbourne, with ample supplies of bread, meat, &c., three times a day, for 20s. to 25s. per week.

PRICES IN MELBOURNE TO DECEMBER, 1858.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Bread .....4 lb. loaf	0	0	10	to	0	0	11
Beef and Mutton..... lb.	0	0	5	to	0	0	9
Veal and Pork	0	0	9	to	0	1	0
Tea	0	1	6	to	0	2	0
Sugar	0	0	3½	to	0	0	6
Lump ditto	0	0	6½	to	0	0	7
Potatoes .....cwt.	0	7	0	to	0	12	0
Butter, fresh .....lbs.	0	2	0	to	0	2	3
Eggs..... doz.	0	2	6	to	0	3	3
Fowls pair	0	8	0				
Ducks	0	10	0				
Geese	1	4	0				
Turkeys	1	10	0	to	2	0	0
Cabbages, Cauliflowers, &c. per doz	0	3	0	to	0	10	0
Apples .....lb.	0	0	6	to	0	0	8
Onions, dried .....cwt.	5	0	0				
Fat Sheep, 60 lbs. average	0	15	0	to	1	1	0
Fat Bullocks, 800 lbs. average..	8	0	0	to	10	0	0
Fat Cows, 600 lbs. average	6	0	0				
Fat Calves	2	0	0	to	3	10	0
Horses, unbroken	10	0	0	to	25	0	0
Good Hacks	30	0	0	to	60	0	0
Good Draught Horses	30	0	0	to	100	0	0
Hay.....per ton	8	0	0	to	9	0	0
Straw	3	0	0	to	4	0	0
Wheat .....per bush, 60 lbs.	0	8	0	to	0	8	3
Oats	0	5	0	to	0	6	6
Barley .....50 lbs.	0	4	0	to	0	4	6
Maize .....60 lbs.	0	6	6	to	0	6	9
Gram .....per ton	11	15	0				

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Area 450,000 square miles, or nearly 260,000,000 acres.

POPULATION.

31st December, 1856, and 1857.

	1856.	1857.
Males.....	161,882	171,673
Females...	124,991	133,814
Total ...	286,873	305,487

ACRES IN CULTIVATION 185,015

LIVE STOCK.

Sheep	8,139,162
Horned Cattle.....	2,148,664
Horses	168,929

	1857.	1858.
REVENUE	£1,125,309	£1,233,797

GOLD PRODUCED.

1856.	1857,	1858, first 10 months.
138,823 ozs.	148,156 ozs.	204,113 ozs.

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF NEW SOUTH WALES
for the Years 1851-2-3-4-5-6-7.

	Imports.	Exports.
	£	£
1851	1,563,931	1,796,912
1852	1,900,436	4,604,034
1853	6,342,397	4,523,346
1854	5,981,063	4,050,126
1855	4,668,519	2,884,130
1856	5,460,971	3,430,870
1857	6,729,400	4,012,090

RATES OF WAGES IN SYDNEY.

December, 1858.

	Per Annum.		
Married couples, for farm work, with rations	£40	to	£50
Single men	30	„	35
Hutkeepers and Shepherds	25	„	30
Storekeepers and Stockmen	35	„	40
Ploughmen and Bullock Drivers	35	„	45
Married couples, for indoor work, and found	45	„	60
Grooms and Gardeners	35	„	50
General Female Servants	18	„	26
Cooks and Laundresses	25	„	30
Nursemaids	15	„	20
Housemaids	20	„	25
Carpenters and Blacksmiths for the country	50	„	100

SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

Area 300,000 square miles, or about 190,000,000 acres.

POPULATION (1857).

Males	55,735
Females	54,182
Total	109,917

REVENUE (1857), £451,526.

LIVE STOCK (1857).

Sheep	2,075,805
Cattle	310,400
Horses	26,220

	1856.	1857,
EXPORTS	£1,665,740	£1,958,572
IMPORTS	1,366,520	1,623,052

1856

1857.

WOOL EXPORTED 22,496 bales 24,854 bales.

LAND IN CULTIVATION (1857) ... 235,966 acres.

VALUE OF STAPLE EXPORTS FROM SOUTH AUSTRALIA,
During the last Four Years.

	Bread Stuffs.	Copper.	Wool.
	£	£	£
1854	316,267	94,706	182,419
1855	236,400	151,827	283,479
1856	556,571	407,665	412,163
1857	756 051	435,174	504,520

EXPORTS OF NATIVE PRODUCE PER HEAD,
During the years 1854-5-6-7.

	Native Produce Exported.	Population.	Amount per head.
	£		£ s. d.
1854	694,422	83,550	8 6 2½
1855	686,953	96,982	7 1 8
1856	1,398,367	104,708	13 7 1
1857	1,744,184	109,917	15 18 3¼

POPULATION AND CONSUMPTION OF IMPORTED
GOODS IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA.

	Average Population.	Imports Consumed.	Amount per head.
		£	£ s. d.
1854	79,800	1,925,771	24 2 7
1855	90,266	1,069,676	11 17 1
1856	100,845	1,019,156	10 1 11
1857	107,362	1,408,664	13 2 5

RATES OF WAGES IN SOUTH AUSTRALIA, Dec., 1858.

With Board and Lodging.

DOMESTIC AND DAIRY SERVANTS.—FEMALE.

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Barmaids .....per annum	40	0	0	to	52	0	0
Dairy Girls... ..	18	0	0	to	21	0	0
General Servants	18	0	0	to	21	0	0
Superior Servants.....	23	0	0				
Good Cooks.....	26	0	0				
Housekeepers	23	0	0	to	30	0	0
Housemaids	20	0	0	to	21	0	0
Kitchenmaids	18	0	0	to	20	0	0
Laundresses	26	0	0				
Nurses	10	0	0	to	24	0	0
Nurse Girls	7	0	0	to	20	0	0
Upper Nurses	20	0	0	to	26	0	0
Waitresses.....	40	0	0				

DOMESTIC AND FARM SERVANTS.—MALE.

Boys, about 12 or 14, to tail							
cattle per annum	10	0	0	to	13	0	0
Bullock Drivers, men, for farms	45	0	0	to	52	0	0
Bullock Drivers, men, for the							
roads	52	0	0	to	60	0	0
Bullock Drivers, men, on sta-							
tions .....from	44	0	0	to	45	0	0
General Farm Servants	40	0	0	to	52	0	0
Hutkeepers, according to dis-							
tance	26	0	0	to	31	0	0
Married couples	50	0	0	to	60	0	0
Milkmen	45	0	0	to	52	0	0
Mowers.....per acre	0	5	0	to	0	6	0
Ploughmen, single	45	0	0	to	52	0	0
Shepherds, single, according to							
distance.....	40	0	0				
Gardeners	40	0	0	to	65	0	0
Bakers.....per week	1	10	0	to	2	5	0
Barmen	1	10	0	to	2	0	0
Bush Carpenters	1	5	0	to	1	10	0

RATES OF WAGES—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Butchers.....per week	1	5	0	to	2	2	0
Confectioners.....	2	2	0				
Cooks, male	0	15	0	to	1	5	0
Fencers	1	0	0	to	1	5	0
Grooms, with occasional per-							
quisites	1	0	0	to	1	5	0
Ostlers, with perquisites	0	15	0	to	1	0	0
Slaughtermen	2	0	0				
Waiters	1	0	0	to	1	10	0

WITHOUT RATIONS.

Brickmakers, per 1,000 with-							
out burning	0	16	0				
Fencers, per rod, 3 rails	0	2	6	to	0	3	0
Sawyers, per 100 feet cedar ...	0	12	0				
Sawyers, per 100 feet deal.....	0	8	0				
Stonebreakers, per cubic yard	0	2	6	to	0	5	9
Wire fencing, per rod, 3 to 5							
wires and cross rail	0	1	6	to	0	2	0
Blacksmiths, per day	0	10	0	to	0	14	0
Bricklayers	0	10	0	to	0	11	0
Cabinetmakers	0	9	0	to	0	11	0
Carpenters.....	0	10	6				
Carriage makers	0	12	0	to	0	14	0
Coopers	0	8	0	to	0	10	0
Engineers	0	12	0	to	0	15	0
Galvanised Iron Workers	0	12	0	to	0	14	0
Ironfounders.....	0	16	0	to	1	0	0
Labourers	0	5	0	to	0	7	0
Masons	0	10	0	to	0	11	0
Millers	0	9	0	to	0	11	0
Miners	0	7	6				
Painters, &c.....	0	10	0	to	0	12	0
Plumbers	0	10	0	to	0	12	0
Quarrymen, (and piece work)	0	8	0	to	0	10	0
Saddlers	0	10	0	to	0	12	0

RATES OF WAGES—*continued.*

	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Shoeing Smiths	0	10	0	to	0	14	0
Shoemakers	0	9	0	to	0	11	0
Tailors.....(or 1s. per hour)	0	10	0	to	0	12	0
Tanners &c.....	0	9	0	to	0	12	0
Watch and Clockmakers.....	0	10	0	to	0	12	0
Wheelwrights	0	10	0	to	0	12	0
Plasterers	0	10	0	to	0	11	0

TASMANIA.

Area, 22,500 square miles, or 15,000,000 acres,
being three-fourths of the area of Ireland.

POPULATION, CENSUS OF 1857.

Exclusive of Military, (2,690).

Males	45,916
Females	34,886
Total.....	<u>80,802</u>

RELIGIONS.

Church of England	47,714
Church of Scotland	7,220
Wesleyan Methodists	4,721
Other Protestant Dissenters	3,820
Roman Catholics	16,852
Jews	429
Mahometans and Pagans	46
Total.....	<u>80,802</u>

	1856.	1857.
EXPORTS	£1,207,802	£1,354,655
IMPORTS.....	1,442,106	1,271,087

	1856.	1857.
EXPORT OF WOOL	4,599, 674lbs.	5,701,815 lbs
ACRES IN CULTIVATION	134,108.	

LIVE STOCK.

	1828.	1834.	1844.	1854.	1857.
Horses	2,034	7,115	15,355	17,384	19,857
Cattle.....	84,476	74,075	85,302	103,752	81,164
Sheep	553,698	765,552	1,145,089	1,831,308	1,879,113

DECENNIAL COMPARISON OF POPULATION.

1824.....	12,643
1834.....	37,799
1844.....	62,281
1854.....	64,874

RATES OF WAGES IN TASMANIA, December, 1858.

WITH RATIONS.

	£	s.	£	s.
Male Servants .....per ann.	30	0	to	40 0
Shepherds	25	0	to	30 0
Coachmen and Grooms	30	0	to	50 0
Gardeners	50	0	to	60 0
Ploughmen.....	40	0	to	50 0
Married Couples	50	0	to	60 0
Female Cooks	30	0	to	40 0
General Servants.....	20	0	to	22 0
Housemaids	18	0	to	20 0
Laundresses	26	0	to	30 0

WITHOUT RATIONS.

Joiners, painters, plasterers, ship- wrights .....per day	0 10	to	0 12
Quarrymen, masons, bricklayers...	0 12	to	0 14

NEW ZEALAND,

AREA.

	Acres.
North Island.....	31,174,400
Middle Island	46,126,080
Stewart's Island	1,000,000
Total.....	<u>78,300,480</u>

POPULATION.

1858.

Exclusive of Military, (about 2,500).

Province of Auckland.....	18,000
„ Wellington	13,000
„ New Plymouth	2,600
„ Nelson	8,500
„ Canterbury	8,000
„ Otago	5,500
	<u>55,600</u>
(Males outnumbering Females by about 5,000)	
Maoris	about <u>60,000</u>

£

REVENUE, Year ended 30th June, 1858..... 147,245

LAND FUND 90,000

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS OF NEW ZEALAND,
During the years 1853-4-5-6.

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£	£	£	£
Auckland .....Imports	259,917	348,920	372,193	270,987
Exports	155,323	180,411	155,778	125,534
New Plymouth ...Imports	30,010	35,333	34,979	27,215
Exports	8,713	14,009	20,982	3,868
Wellington .....Imports	161,457	275,973	177,925	179,028
Exports	100,853	83,547	73,474	80,417
Nelson .....Imports	51,448	87,160	86,223	81,172
Exports	34,226	21,663	47,494	29,775
Canterbury .....Imports	83,920	100,120	97,592	90,446
Exports	3,396	14,777	43,955	47,831
Otago .....Imports	11,074	43,692	44,545	60,310
Exports	770	6,481	24,182	25,737

The falling off in Exports for the last year or two is to be referred to the decreased demand for New Zealand timber and agricultural produce in Victoria.

COMPARATIVE TABLE OF WOOL EXPORTED FROM
NEW ZEALAND,

During the years 1853-4-5-6.

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>	<i>lbs.</i>
Auckland	202,494	65,494	82,704	120,622
New Plymouth	1,904	31,421	36,462	52,640
Wellington	687,968	{ 702,147 & 9 bales }	561,599	998,388
Nelson	173,974	213,521	508,581	319,058
Canterbury .....	...	122,600	410,108	728,596
Otago.....	5,000	119,233	172,890	340,314
	1,071,340	1,254,416	1,772,344	2,559,618

The above return does not accurately show the quantities produced in each province, considerable quantities having been sent coastwise (from Canterbury and Nelson particularly) to other ports for shipment.

REVENUE OF NEW ZEALAND.

	1853.	1854.	1855.	1856.
	£	£	£	£
Ordinary Revenue	80,103	110,590	111,233	107,801
Territorial	66,751	180,825	62,300	76,176
Total.....	146,854	291,415	173,533	183,977

As the climate of New Zealand has been spoken of as one of the finest in the world, a few tables may be interesting, which seem to illustrate the truthfulness of that statement.

SICKNESS AND MORTALITY OF TROOPS IN NEW ZEALAND.

Ratio per 1,000 Men.

	Admitted into Hospitals.	Daily Sick.	Dead.
1853	461	20	4·8
54	507	23	3·2
1855	559	21	7·8
1856	522	20	3·4
Average	510	21	4·8

Five hundred and ten admitted into hospital out of 1,000 is one half less than what occurs amongst

infantry soldiers in the United Kingdom; 4·8 deaths annually in 1,000 is one third less than amongst infantry in the United Kingdom.

The table shows 21 constantly sick in each 1,000 ; whereas, in England, out of the same force 40 are constantly sick.

MORTALITY AMONGST OFFICERS, WOMEN, AND CHILDREN OF THE MILITARY, IN NEW ZEALAND.

Years.	Officers.		Women.		Children.	
	Strength.	Died.	Strength.	Died.	Strength.	Died.
1853	47	1	157	1	336	8
1854	57	1	150	1	349	9
1855	59	1	190	3	381	22
1856	67	0	168	2	341	9
Total...	230	3	665	7	1,407	48

The extreme healthiness of these islands is apparent to any one who visits them, from the mere appearance of the people, as the rosy cheeks to which we are accustomed in Old England are to be met with in all their freshness in Auckland, Wellington, and other parts of the islands. The air is much more humid than is the case in Australia, and rain falls at intervals throughout the year. But, as the following table shows, the alternations of temperature are very moderate, and the climate highly adapted, on that account, for invalids.

Towards the southern parts of the Southern Island of course much colder weather prevails ; occasionally, in the case of Otago bordering on the inclement ; but the climate is still found to be singularly healthful.

As a means of estimating the advantages of the climate of New Zealand as compared with that of other well-known places, the following table will be interesting.

COMPARISON OF CLIMATES.

	Latitude.	Mean Annual Temperature.	Average fall of rain in inches.	Average number of days on which rain fell	Average Temperature.	
					Coldest Month.	Warmest Month.
Auckland	36° 50 S.	59½	45½	160	51	68
Mauritius	29° 9 S.	77	39	148	72	82
Freemantle, Western Australia..	32° 15 S.	62	33	88	53	71
Sydney	33° 51 S.	66	52	...	59	73
Cape Town.....	34° 0 S.	67	...	76	57	79
Melbourne	37° 49 S.	61	25	...	53	69
Port Arthur, Tasmania	43° 10 S.	58	44	...	53	62
Colombo, Ceylon.	6° 56 S.	80	71	112	78	82
Barbadoes	13° 4 N.	80	68	171	78	82
Jamaica	17° 59 N.	79	34	60	75	82
Madeira	32° 37 N.	64	29	70	59	71
Malta	35° 53 N.	67	28	75	54	79
Gibraltar	36° 6 N.	64	47	127	50	77
Philadelphia	39° 56 N.	53	...	...	32	77
Rome	41° 54 N.	60	31	117	47	74
Montpelier	43° 36 N.	57	24	80	42	75
Halifax, Nova Scotia	44° 39 N.	44	55	...	21	66
St. John's, Newfoundland	47° 35 N.	44	55	137	22	64
London	51° 30 N.	50	24	178	37	63
Edinburgh	55° 58 N.	47	40½	168	34	59
Paris.....	48° 50 N.	51	...	...	35	67
Jersey	49° 16 N.	53	...	...	41	63
Quebec.....	46° 47 N.	41	...	...	43	73

CEYLON, 1856.

In touching at Ceylon, occasion was taken to speak in glowing terms of that beautiful, fertile, and interesting island. As the colony is little known, and as its undoubted capabilities can only be adequately developed by British capital and enterprise, a few particulars referring to it have been added.

POPULATION.

Males	873,939
Females	798,181
	<hr/>
	1,672,120
Aliens	19,804
	<hr/>
	1,691,924

Square Miles.

AREA.....	24,700
-----------	--------

£

REVENUE	504,175
EXPENDITURE.....	457,137
IMPORTS	2,714,565
EXPORTS	1,663,612

Acres.

LAND IN CULTIVATION.....	771,170
PASTURE.....	345,932
UNCULTIVATED	5,037,303

LIVE STOCK.

Horses	3,180
Horned Cattle.....	785,078
Goats	55,792
Sheep	47,916

Domestic Labour	6d. per day
Tradesmen	£2 to £3 per month.

EXPORT OF COFFEE.

Yearly Average, 1836-40, 5 years.....	Cwt.	50,820
„ 1841-45, „		121,559
„ 1846-50, „		279,837
„ 1851-54, „		364,540

TOTAL EXPORTS.

	1854.	1855.
Coffee, Plantation.....cwt.	302,693	315,464
„ Native	125,655	162,088
Cinnamon.....lb.	652,770	739,067
Cocoa Nut Oil.....gal.	1,006,543	764,169
Plumbago	22,978	5,477
Coir.....	35,470	30,439

	1854.	1855.
VALUE OF TOTALS.....	£1,256,354	£1,327,984.

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